

CHAPTER 9

JBS DOCUMENTS...rev. 05/17/14

This chapter is devoted to JBS-related documents which generally have never been publicly available prior to now. I will scan and post copies of some of the more historically important or interesting documents.

The documents originate from a variety of sources including Special Collections of personal papers archived at college/university libraries and state historical societies as well as private correspondence by current and former JBS officials and members.

It should be noted that the Birch Society does not allow outside independent researchers or scholars to have access to its archives for historical research purposes. In addition, during its formative period, the Birch Society deliberately avoided publicity and it often was hostile toward media attention. Consequently, much of JBS history (particularly its internal disputes and documents concerning its policy-making decisions) has never been publicly available.

Like the Communist Party, the JBS wants to control the substance of whatever narrative is written about itself.

“Fact” (from the JBS perspective) consists of data which it believes reflects favorably upon its membership, activities, and objectives. Adverse or inconvenient information is suppressed or de-valued in order to manipulate readers into believing the most positive perceptions about itself as an “educational” organization.

What follows will generally be in chronological order.

1958

September 1958

Before the Birch Society was founded, Robert Welch sent copies of his book-length “*private letter*” entitled *The Politician*, to numerous individuals whom he thought could be persuaded about the accuracy of its theme that President Eisenhower was a Communist traitor. Copied below is one such letter.

AMERICAN OPINION

An Informal Review

Belmont 78, Massachusetts

September 29, 1958

Mr. T. Coleman Andrews
6 Iris Lane
Richmond 26, Virginia

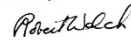
Dear Mr. Andrews:

Under separate cover today, I am sending you by registered first-class mail, return receipt requested, copy of an extremely confidential document.

This manuscript is not intended for publication at all. But I am putting it into the hands of a limited number of good friends and outstanding patriots, who can be depended on to treat it with the confidence requested, and to take reasonable precautions to safeguard the document while it is in their possession. And I do believe that it will give even so well informed a man as yourself a certain amount of additional insight into some aspects of the conspiracy which we face.

With all good wishes, I am

Sincerely,



Robert Welch

RW:amv

Robert Welch (and his friends) were acutely aware of the damage that his comments about Eisenhower would have if they became publicly known. For example, in a letter to J.W. Clise of Seattle, Welch wrote:

"Our rather extreme precautions with regard to this document are not due to any worry on my part as to what might happen to myself...But many of my best informed friends feel that having the manuscript get into the wrong hands at the present time might do far more damage than good to the whole anti-Communist cause; whereas, by distributing it very carefully and quietly to quite a limited number of strongly patriotic leaders, so that the information in this document becomes a background to their own thinking on which their own actions are determined it can do considerable good." [2/25/59 letter to J.W. Clise, Seattle WA].

October 1958

Robert Welch asked 12 men to attend a meeting at the home of Miss Marguerite Dice of 3650 Washington Blvd in Indianapolis on Monday and Tuesday, December 8 and 9, 1958. Dice was the National Vice-Chairman of Minute Women of the U.S.A., Inc.

An example of Welch's invitation and subsequent instructions are copied below. In this two-day meeting Welch explained his proposal for creation of the John Birch Society.

AMERICAN OPINION

An Informal Review

Belmont 78. Massachusetts

October 27, 1958

Mr. T. Coleman Andrews
6 Iris Lane
Richmond 26, Virginia

Dear Mr. Andrews:

Would you be able and willing to meet with about ten other men, all from different parts of the nation, in Indianapolis on Monday, December 8 and Tuesday, December 9?

Except for myself, they are all men of well recognized stature, unshakable integrity, proved ability, and fervent patriotism. The meeting will be completely "off the record" -- you will simply be in Indianapolis, or just in the Midwest, on business. And since there is no way I can tell you of the ideas which I hope to see thoroughly discussed there, without writing volumes, you will have to take for granted that I would not ask such busy men to give up two whole days in this way unless I thought it would be worthwhile.

You are the only one of the group whom I am inviting whom I have never met personally. But not only do I know enough about your patriotic activities and outlook to feel justified in asking you to attend, but a good friend of yours -- and mine -- Bill Kent, who will be there, has strongly urged me to see if you will not join the group. So I hope very much you will say yes.

Sincerely,

Robert Welch
Robert Welch

RW:cmv

AMERICAN OPINION

An Informal Review

Belmont 78. Massachusetts

November 12, 1958

Mr. T. Coleman Andrews
6 Iris Lane
Richmond 26, Virginia

Dear Mr. Andrews:

This is simply a memo concerning arrangements, for each of you who have been kind enough to accept invitations to the Indianapolis meeting.

While there is nothing even remotely conspiratorial about this gathering, we do want it completely "off the record." Due to the importance of the men attending, therefore, it is better for each of you to make your own separate arrangements as to the hotel at which you will stay. If several of the dozen men happen to wind up at the same hotel, no harm will be done, but I did not want all of you to be landing at the same place by concerted plan.

The two-day meetings will be held at the private home (quite adequate for the purpose) of Miss Marguerite Dice, 3650 Washington Boulevard, Indianapolis. There are many obvious advantages to this arrangement. And while I personally am deeply grateful to Miss Dice for making her home available for us, you will have no reason to feel under personal obligation. Miss Dice is herself activated by a fervent patriotism, guided by a sound sense of propriety unimpaired by the "lunatic fringe."

The meeting will start promptly, at Miss Dice's home, at nine o'clock in the morning of Monday, December 8. We'll break up at six o'clock on the afternoon of Tuesday, December 9. My hope of making this trip seem unquestionably worthwhile to you is based on the prospect of these two full days of discussion. So I cannot refrain from this earnest plea against late arrivals or early departures, which I know are always a temptation under such circumstances.

If I needed anything to give me a sobering sense of responsibility about this meeting, it would certainly be provided by the calibre of the men who have accepted my invitation. I am fully appreciative of the confidence implied, and am looking forward to meeting each of you on Monday morning, December 8.

Sincerely,

Robert Welch
Robert Welch

RW:mlp

Eleven men accepted the invitation. The 11 are listed below. The asterisked names are the men who later accepted positions on the JBS National Council.

*T. Coleman Andrews (Richmond VA)

*Laurence E. Bunker (Wellesley Hills MA)

*William J. Grede (Milwaukee WI)

William R. Kent (Memphis TN)

*Fred C. Koch (Wichita KS)

*W.B. McMillan (St. Louis, MO) – McMillan was the first person to become a JBS member after founder Robert Welch

*Revilo P. Oliver (Urbana IL)

*Louis Ruthenburg (Evansville IN)

Fitzhugh Scott, Jr. (Milwaukee, WI)

*Robert W. Stoddard (Worcester, MA)

*Ernest W. Swigert (Portland OR)

December 1958

The first official document generated as a result of the Indianapolis meeting probably was “*Confidential Report No. 1*” dated 12/19/58 – which is copied below. On page 2 of the report, Mr. Welch states that Bill Grede and Fitzhugh Scott will be scheduling the first 2-day “*top level*” recruitment meeting conducted by Welch during January 1959 in Milwaukee. “[The second will be in Florida after the NAM board meeting. And I shall ask other members of our Indianapolis group to help me with similar meetings as fast as I can get to them.](#)”

Note: It was Welch’s 2-day presentation in Milwaukee (January 1959) which resulted in the FBI’s Milwaukee field office learning about the existence of the John Birch Society and then advising FBI HQ in Washington DC.

Mr. Welch also stated that “[Incorporation of the JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY under Chapter 180 of the General Laws of Massachusetts with all of the powers given to non-profit corporations by that Chapter, is now under way. I have obtained signatures from all seven of the incorporators required by law, the first meeting of incorporators is being held this afternoon, and the attorney says we can expect our charter by next Wednesday, December 24.](#)”

December 19, 1958

The John Birch Society was officially founded at Indianapolis on December 9, 1958. Its first member, besides the founder, was W. B. McMillan. Others have come in since. As there will be no local chapters before January, and none in most of the areas represented by the men at Indianapolis for some time thereafter, all members are being enrolled temporarily in the Home Chapter.

Our first specific undertaking is formation of the "front," a Committee To Protest The Firing Of Medford Evans. This is being handled by, and most of the work done by, Dr. Revilo P. Oliver. Although Dr. Oliver, as one of the very top scholars in the United States in his field of classical languages and literatures, is fairly safe in his position as a full professor at the University of Illinois, he is still taking some risk. From long and deep study of the Communist conspiracy in operation, especially as he has observed it in the academic world, Dr. Oliver is convinced that unless we can accomplish enough to slow down and eventually reverse the forces at work, within five years it will make little difference whether he has a professorship anywhere or not. He not only is willing to take the present risk, therefore, but was so completely sold on our program that he is giving up extra income he was earning by "outside" writing to put all of the time and effort he can spare into volunteer work for THE JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY.

Medford Evans not only has consented to our plan in this connection, but is enthusiastic about it. He is preparing for us a detailed record of the case, of which we shall make initial copies simply on an office duplicator. These will be used by Dr. Oliver, to accompany his letters, in obtaining members of the Committee for letterhead and other purposes. We expect to have educators and educational administrators of recognized standing as about sixty or seventy-five percent of the publicized Committee; men from other vocations for the remainder. Once we have the consents to serve on this Committee, to justify the letterhead, we shall begin a mailing of letters of protest, accompanied by the printed background record, to conservative newspapers, college presidents of all ideological shades, and to other appropriate groups and individuals.

This "front" is something which is badly needed, and at once. There are hundreds of professors "on our side," in different colleges throughout the country, who are right now on a precipice. By posting this "beware!" sign in front of deans and presidents who are about to push them over, we can, I believe, save many of them. The Committee To Protest The Firing Of Medford Evans is certainly not going to have any great substantive effect

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upon the tremendous general movement to the Left in our educational world. But it can throw a little of "the fear of God" into the AACP and some of the weak-kneed college presidents who, not themselves leftists, are too opportunistic to have any backbone. It can give the thousands of conservatives who still remain on the fifteen hundred or more college faculties in the United States a feeling that somebody does care what happens to them, and a feeling of a certain amount of collective strength if they are willing to support each other.

We have two other "fronts" which we have already taken steps to get started. We shall give you more information about them later.

We expect to have our first Committee holding local all-day meetings early in January, involving members who will go to work immediately, with energy and dedication, in ways which we will show, that we feel will accomplish something worth while. Of our two all-day meetings which I shall conduct myself, Bill Greid and Pittsburgh Scott are setting up the first one for me in Indianapolis in January. The second will be in Florida in February, immediately after the NAM board meeting. And I shall ask other members of our Indianapolis group to help me with similar meetings as fast as I can get to them.

Is that connection there in enclosed the tentative draft of a memorandum which may be helpful to all of us in getting the right man to give up their time for such meetings. If each of the signers named will let me know how much time is or is not all right with him, it will be appreciated.

There is also enclosed a copy of my first quick draft of a memorandum, suggested by Coleman Andrews, to be used in answering the question "Who was John Birch?" We shall be able to improve this, certainly in physical appearance, and probably in content, as we go along.

Incorporation of THE JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY under Chapter 160 of the General Laws of Massachusetts, with all of the powers given to non-profit corporations by that Chapter, is now under way. This is obtained signatures from all seven of the incorporators required by law, the first meeting of incorporators is being held this afternoon, and the attorney says we can expect our charter by next Wednesday, December 24.

The magazine is no part of the direct concern of THE JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY, but I think you may be interested in this line of information. Just within this week we have received a request from a Colorado newspaper to reprint in full the article by Medford Evans, "How Johnny Birch May Leave To Live," in our December issue; a request from the National Research Bureau, Inc., to reprint all of our articles. "If You Want

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It Straight," from the November issue, in pamphlet form for distribution in their reading racks in factories throughout the country; and a request from Edgar Bundy's Church League Of America to reprint our book review of Merrill Root's "Brainwashing In The High Schools," from the November issue, in leaflet form for distribution to ten thousand of their subscribers. We believe that already we are being reprinted more than any other magazine of our size in America. We still badly need a larger circulation but, at the end of AMERICAN OPINION's first year, all signs are encouraging.

Have a Merry Christmas! And let's try to see that America, at least, can keep on having Merry Christmases for a long time to come.

Robert Welch

12/23/58 = The JBS was incorporated as a non-profit business organization in Massachusetts and was assigned Charter Number 624-300. The officers were listed as Robert Welch (President) and Treasurer, Ellen M. Lovett (Clerk/Secretary). The Directors listed were Mary M. White, Robert Welch, and Ellen M. Lovett. The incorporators were listed as Robert Welch, Marian Probert Welch (wife of Robert), Ellen M. Lovett, Mary M. White, Ellen Douglas Snow aka Mrs. Stanley Carman Snow, Philip L. Jenkins, and Juliette D. Guild. The aims and purposes of the JBS were listed as promoting civic interest in national and international affairs by an educational program and the collection and dissemination of literature for educational purposes.

1959

1/7/59 = Robert Welch sent T. Coleman Andrews a 4-page letter advising Andrews that Welch met with an “*intermediate*” group of 44 people in Massachusetts (above chapter level but one level down from “*top level*” individuals such as met in Indianapolis) and he received an enthusiastic response to his presentation.

Welch then asked Andrews to consider becoming Chairman of a project to be named “*The Movement To Impeach Earl Warren*” which would seek signatures on an impeachment petition because “*Warren has definitely violated the oath of office which he took when he became Chief Justice...*”

Welch also asked Andrews to take the lead in creation of one or more JBS chapters in Richmond VA which “*could take as its very first project...all of the work and correspondence and organizational details involved there in Richmond in setting up this movement and getting it under way all over the country.*”

Welch observed that: “*Frankly, with the Left Wing control now so strong, insidious and ubiquitous in Washington, I am not deceiving myself that we have very much chance of really bringing about the impeachment of Earl Warren. Although we might. But, I don’t think that is really as important as dramatizing to the whole country where he stands, where the Supreme Court as now constituted under him stands, and how important it is to face the facts about the road we are now traveling so fast.*”

Andrews declined Welch’s invitation to become Chairman by letter dated 1/14/59 due to other time-consuming commitments. Andrews also told Welch that he believed “*that there is a strong likelihood that blood is going to flow before the integration question is settled.*”

January 23, 1959
(Dictated January 20)

Mr. T. Coleman Andrews
6 Iris Lane
Richmond 26, Virginia

Dear Coleman:

Although I understand the circumstances and reasons, of course I am sorry to learn from your letter of January 14 that you are not going to be able to take the leadership in **THE MOVEMENT TO IMPEACH EARL WARREN**. I do not yet know where to find anybody else as well qualified as yourself for this effort; but shall do my best in due course, because I think it would be an important and effective "front."

With regard to John Birch, as his attitude towards the gathering storms in the South, I think you are wrong. If blood does flow there, which I agree is entirely likely, it will definitely be because the Communists "planned it that way." They have schemed for a long time to be in position to fan little fires of civil disorder into a huge conflagration of civil war, if and when they need such a horror in their moves to take us over. And John Birch, although a minister devoted to peace, was entirely ready to fight for a cause which he considered worthy of the sacrifice.

Here's wishing you great success and effectiveness in carrying out the public-spirited tasks which you have taken on, as well as in the increasingly successful operation of the business enterprise which you now head. I shall certainly be in touch with you from time to time, with regard to the possibility of further undertakings of **THE JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY**, and shall also give you periodical reports on its progress. We now have five chapters already formed in Greater Boston. I am just back from the two-day top-level meeting in Milwaukee, set up for me by Bill Grede and Fitzhugh Scott, which we discussed in Indianapolis, and which seemed to me to have been extremely successful. Also, I made two speeches in Detroit while on this trip, and laid the foundations for chapters of **THE JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY** there as well as in Milwaukee. We are moving ahead about as rapidly, I believe, as anybody could possibly hope.

I'll write again before too long. In the meantime, all good wishes and my kindest regards.

Sincerely,

RW
Robert Welch

RW:eml

Welch's 1/23/59 reply to Andrews is copied below. It also reveals some details concerning JBS recruitment success in Milwaukee and Boston.

3/30/59 = Welch advises Coleman Andrews that: "We now have ten chapters actually working in Greater Boston, three in Florida, one in Michigan and many more in process of formation in those and other states. And we have quite a number of Home Chapter members who are contributing time and effort and executive ability, as well as money, to our growing activities."

05/59 = Another Birch Society project [CASE = Committee Against Summit Entanglements] was able to secure the support of numerous prominent conservatives---including many whom, in later years, would reject the Birch Society and Robert Welch for their extremism and irresponsibility. CASE endorses list copied below. CASE opposed President Eisenhower's proposal for a summit meeting with Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev.

Starting in May 1959 and weekly thereafter, CASE sent letters to President Eisenhower accompanied by signed petitions. In June 1959, CASE sent 1634 signatures on 128 petitions. In addition, CASE sent a copy of their letter to the editor of 2500 daily newspapers along with 400 other "opinion molders".

COMMITTEE AGAINST SUMMIT ENTANGLEMENTS
Belmont 78, Massachusetts

Chairman: Robert Welch

Vice Chairmen: Charles Edison, Alfred Kohlberg, Clarence Manion

Executive Committee: Thomas J. Anderson, Spruille Braden, Owen Brewster, Robert B. Dresser, E. P. Hamilton, A. G. Heintz, Jr., Samuel B. Peitangill, Archibald Roosevelt, Robert W. Stoddard, A. C. Wedemeyer

National Board:

T. Coleman Andrews	Rose Wilder Lane
George W. Armstrong, Jr.	J. Bracken Lee
John U. Barr	F. F. Loock
K. G. Benton	Ross Martin
Elizabeth Churchill Brown	Frank E. Mealand, Jr.
Howard Buffett	N. Floyd McGowan
Lawrence E. Bunker	W. L. McGrath
H. G. Carpenter	W. B. McMillan
Taylor Caldwell	Adolphe Menjou
F. Cuno Chance	Mrs. Seth Milliken
W. B. Coberly, Jr.	Ludwig von Mises
James L. Coker	Robert Morris
Kenneth W. Colegrove	Reville P. Oliver
Martin J. Condon, III	Cola G. Parker
P. A. Del Valle	J. Howard Pew
Pierre S. du Pont, 3rd	Henry Pope, Jr.
Franklin Farrel, Jr.	Louis Ruthenburg
Dorothy B. Frankston	Gordon H. Scherer
J. H. Gipson, Sr.	Alfred J. Schweppe
Barry Goldwater	T. G. W. Settle
Wm. J. Grede	J. Nelson Shephard
Leslie R. Groves	Wint Smith
A. Brooks Harlow	Robert B. Snowden
Frank E. Holman	Suzanne Silvercruys Stevenson
B. E. Hutchinson	Eraust G. Swigert
Husband E. Kimmel	W. H. Wilbur
Mrs. Wm. F. Knowland	George H. Williamson
Fred C. Koch	

COMMITTEE AGAINST SUMMIT ENTANGLEMENTS

447 Concord Avenue

Belmont 78, Massachusetts

June 29, 1959

To An Editor, Or Other Patriotic Leader:
We have forwarded the enclosed petitions, with signatures, to the White House, in our mailing per week, on the following schedule:

Week Beginning	Number Of Signed Petitions
May 11	1
May 18	2
May 25	4
June 1	6
June 8	16
June 15	22
June 22	66
June 29	128

While not all of these petitions have been completely filled with the many signatures, most of them have been, and they have averaged at least fifteen signatures per petition. The ones and the other standing in each case have been certified by three witnesses. This procedure will be continued.

We already have enough signed petitions to take care of the 400 we shall need next week and the 500 we shall need during the week beginning July 12. But the stream of petitions now pouring in on at least twice to a veritable flood, so keep up for long with a need expanding at such a rate.

Asking you, therefore, of our appreciation for any help you have already given us, with publicity or otherwise, and of continued appreciation for further support, we are humbly calling the obvious trend to your attention. How long we can maintain this swelling stream and its dramatic impact depends primarily on people like yourself.

Sincerely,

Robert Welch

P.S. Of course we shall be glad to send blank petitions promptly to anybody who requests them. -w

09/59 = After Robert Welch's initial two-day presentation in Indianapolis in December 1958, the 11 men who listened to it (some of them attended the presentation on two different occasions) arranged for Welch to give a "top level" presentation in their home cities. Frequently, these meetings were to prominent businessmen including former Presidents of the National Association of Manufacturers. A memorandum was written to accompany invitation letters sent by Welch. The memo presented testimonial statements by individuals who had attended one of the presentations to encourage participation by subsequent invited guests. The memo is copied below.

REMEMBER TO ATTEND A MEETING

This pamphlet is meant to be enclosed with my letters sent out to 5000 of
 Welch to his friends and other persons interested, during time to attend any one
 of the Sunday meetings where he will be holding in different parts of the country.
 The next evening, revivals.
 Sunday evening, the first of the series for the first day, we
 certainly will endeavor to hold a service to make the difference in the
 time of the service. We believe you will find the subject, either important and the
 purpose worth while.

T. Solomon Andrews	Paul G. Scott	—Fitzhugh Scott, Jr.
Lawrence E. Baker	E. C. McKim	—Robert G. Wendell
Mr. J. Brock	Charles F. Miller	—Robert G. Wendell
	James F. Robinson	

These new fifteen minutes and professional lectures in the spirit of the
 meeting, which is intended. The results of all the participants are: I feel
 strongly convinced, I have that for the first time we have conducted the
 most successful experience of my life.

Henry L. Hocking

No attached the list to the series of conferences. We cannot but sincerely
 recommend attendance for the full ten days, or those invited to the later meetings.

Thomas J. Anderson	T. F. Scott	J. Nelson Shubert
Robert G. Miller	John G. Brown	Harold Shubert
E. P. Swenson	Robert Miller	Charles J. Wendell
A. H. Robinson, Jr.		John Shubert

I was personally surprised by your presentation at the New York meeting,
 and as you said I was also to attend.

Robert G. Brown

I am sure for your kind of service.

T. G. G. Scott

As for myself, I want to say that what every spiritual presentation the
 center is welcome in the United States in this time shall hold a service of the
 same at the end of this meeting, whether he conducted in accordance with my
 own. As I am the, you have presented these organizations with a most practical or-
 ganization to become effective in fact.

Gordon Ross

I have been to this country for twelve years. As the first important ten
 days of the thirty years were those in which I lived in, which presentation.

Dr. S. N. Braden

... of the new situation and continuing experience in which I have
 been living, and would be with a program which I believe the new one
 better and our civilization.

Charles H. Baker

During 1959, Welch traveled across the country to make these presentations. For example, his schedule included a presentation in January 1959 in Milwaukee and August 1959 in Chicago. Phyllis Schlafly and her husband, Fred, attended the Chicago meeting and she and her husband joined the Birch Society after listening to Welch. See her letter below.

Mr. J. F. Schlafly, Jr.
 1212 Calhoun Bldg.
 Alton, Illinois
 December 5, 1959

Dear Mr. Schlafly:

Thank you for your information on the Ministry Readers.
 I am glad to be reassured that the set I have by the
 American Book Company is the genuine one, and I am also
 glad to know how the American Book Company can be identified.
 I have used the set by the American Book Company for the
 last four years with my own son, and I have been very
 pleased with it.

I am happy to send you the list of persons who attended
 Bob Welch's meeting. Please return it at your convenience.

The John Birch Society is doing a wonderful work, and
 my husband and I both joined promptly after the Chicago
 meeting.

With all good wishes,

Sincerely,
 Phyllis Schlafly

Other presentations by Welch during 1959 included:

- September 18-19, 1959 at Statler Hotel in Los Angeles CA
- September 22-23, 1959 at Mark Hopkins Hotel in San Francisco CA
- September 25-26, 1959 at Olympic Hotel in Seattle WA

11/20/59 = In a letter to David Roemer of Houston TX, Robert Welch answered an inquiry concerning his religious beliefs. It is not generally known by Welch admirers that he believed in Darwinian evolution.

3. My concern is with morality and purpose, based on those eternal truths on which we can all agree. In my presentation

I would like a world, Mr. Bessner, in which John Birch, whom I never knew, or Cardinalushing, whom I do, would have every opportunity to convert -- by persuasion -- other men to the not-faith in which they have believed so sincerely. To preserve that world much longer, or to have it prevail again over so much of the earth where a religion-based civilization has already been wiped out, no man deserves so much aesthetic movement which seeks to destroy not only all religious belief, and all morality, but the very conscience of man. And we must do more

Wade Robert Welsh

W. R. And may I add a final comment:

In the beauty of the lilies Christ was born across the sea,
With a glory in His blood that transfigures you and me;
He died to make us holy; let His life to make us new free,
While God is marching on.

As you may be aware, from either hearing tape recordings or
reading the Blue Book of The John Birch Society, I often repeat
that last stanza of the Battle-Song of the Republic. This is
because I love it and believe it is every line and word.
Otherwise I would not quote it, in the context that I do. RM

12/59 = Welch invited Coleman Andrews to become one of the first members of the Birch Society National Council – the governing body of the JBS. Andrews answered Welch's proposal by inquiring into potential legal liabilities faced by Council members. Welch's reply is copied below.

December 14, 1959

Mr. T. Coleman Andrews
6 Iris Lane
Richmond 26, Virginia

Day Columns

This is in reply to your letter of December 9, which I find on top of one of the huge piles of correspondence waiting for me on my return.

The John Birch Society is incorporated, under Chapter 180 of the General Laws of Massachusetts, as a non-profit educational corporation. I am an little likelihood, therefore, of any member of the Society or any officer of the Society being sued for anything which the So-

Since we believe laws, which are essentially legal actions are brought not only against corporations, but against the members of their boards of directors, as having been legally responsible for the actions of the corporation, we are now going to make a list of the members of the board. The formation of a non-profit corporation under Massachusetts law requires seven incorporators, who are the legally controlling body. The seven incorporators are: Mrs. William B. Smith, Jr., who was elected and had to be actually investigated, before the charter could be issued. Because this is a non-profit corporation - as opposed, say, to the company, the corporation is not going to be run by a president and a number of other women to run office who is an extremely skilled and educated person. The seven incorporators are: Mrs. William B. Smith, Jr., who was elected and had to be actually investigated, before the charter could be issued.

To comply with regulations, these incorporators elected a Board of Directors, which we kept to the absolute minimum required, and which was elected for a period of one year. The Board of Directors is now going to be for twenty three years. The COUNCIL will, in fact, be the governing body, more or less, of the John Birch Society. And it may be that in the future, the Board of Directors will be elected by the members of the Society. In fact more closely affiliated. But at present and for the foreseeable future, the legal authority and responsibility will rest with the Board of Directors.

Mr. J. Coleman Anderson

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Theorem 14. 1010

of the COUNCIL will be binding only because, and to the extent that, the directors want them to be binding. Under those circumstances, no matter how much advice and guidance the COUNCIL gives me (and I shall certainly be badly needing and wanting both), I can hardly see any body trying to hold the COUNCIL, or members of the COUNCIL, legally responsible for anything the Society does or that I do in the course of the

[illegible]

As to a certain unpublished manuscript, which might have to some extent caused your concern, please note again that neither The John Birch Society nor anybody in The John Birch Society (except of course myself personally) has any slightest connection with or responsibility for that work. Also, I don't think you need to worry about that manuscript at all anyway. I have good reasons to believe that the Left Wing knows all about it and has known all about it for at least a year; and that they are just as anxious to avoid making you free once it is read, although you are not.

Mr. T. Coleman Andrews

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December 14, 1959

noise which might actually lead to widespread public knowledge or readership, as we are. And as long as we hold its further distribution down to just a few good friends here and there and now and then, in strict confidence and very limited numbers, which we certainly intend to do, I am sure that the Left Wing is even more anxious than we are, in this case, to "let sleeping dogs lie."

And finally, Coleman, we certainly are not going to be able to save our country and our civilization from the Communists, unless we are willing to stick our necks out to some extent. We are facing a fantastic and a horrible danger, and we cannot overcome that danger with the cautious

In summary, I have looked into and given much thought to the possible liabilities of the members of the Society and members of the COUNCIL, and have done all I could to see that those liabilities are negligible under all foreseeable circumstances. So I hope that this assurance will remove your hesitation sufficiently for you to let me know that I can accept your court you in, among the group of outstanding Americans who have already consented to become members of the COUNCIL of The John Birch Society.

Sincerely,

Bd.

RW:mpn

Robert Welch

1/9/60 = The first meeting of the JBS National Council was held at the Union League Club, 65 W. Jackson Blvd., Chicago IL on Saturday, January 9, 1960. Five of those in attendance (William Grede, A.G. Heinsohn, Robert Stoddard, W.B. McMillan and Ernie Swigert) subsequently sent a letter dated 1/13/60 to all Council members asking for their financial support so that an assistant could be hired for Robert Welch.

It was at this first Council meeting that Robert Welch made some of his most controversial comments. For example:

"From a careful and realistic study of the mountainous pile of evidence that is there for all to see, certain terrifying conclusions are objectively inescapable. Among them are:

- (1) The Communists are winning their large victories, as they always have, through the cumulative effect of small gains;
- (2) They make these gains chiefly through the conniving assistance of many of the very diplomats and officials who are supposed to be opposing them;
- (3) Communist influences are now in almost complete working control of our government;
- (4) And hence, the United States Government is today, as it has been for many years, the most important and powerful single force promoting the world-wide Communist advance." *A Confidential Report To Members Of The COUNCIL of The John Birch Society* – minutes of 1/9/60 meeting held at Union League Club in Chicago IL, page 1-2; minutes signed by Robert Welch.]

Furthermore:

"Today, gentlemen, I can assure you, without the slightest doubt in my own mind, that the takeover at the top is, for all practical purposes, virtually complete. Whether you like it or not, or whether you believe it or not, our Federal Government is already, literally in the hands of the Communists." (Ibid, page 2)

"In our two states with the largest population, New York and California...already the two present Governors are almost certainly actual Communists...Our Congress now contains a number of men like Adam Clayton Powell of New York and Charles Porter of Oregon, who are certainly actual Communists, and plenty more who are sympathetic to Communist purposes for either ideological or opportunistic reasons." (Ibid, page 7) (Note: the reference to Governors refers to Edmund G. Brown of California and Nelson Rockefeller of New York.)

"In the Senate, there are men like Stephen Young of Ohio, and Wayne Morse of Oregon, McNamara of Michigan, and Clifford Case of New Jersey and Hubert Humphrey of Minnesota and Estes Kefauver of Tennessee and John F. Kennedy of Massachusetts, whom it is utter folly to think of as just liberals. Every one of those men is either an actual Communist or so completely a Communist sympathizer or agent that it makes no practical difference..." (Ibid, page 8)

"Our Supreme Court, dominated by Earl Warren and Felix Frankfurter and Hugo Black, is so visibly pro-Communist that no argument is even needed...And our federal courts below that level...are in many cases just as bad." (Ibid, page 8)

"Our State Department is loaded with Communists from top to bottom, to the extent that our roll call of Ambassadors almost sounds like a list somebody has put together to start a Communist front." ... [Ibid, page 8]

"It is estimated from many reliable sources that from 70% to 90% of the responsible personnel in the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare are Communists."

"Our Central Intelligence Agency under Allen Dulles is nothing more or less than an agency to promote Communism throughout the world...Almost all the other Departments are loaded with Communists and Communist sympathizers. And this generalization most specifically does include our whole Defense Department." [Ibid, page 8]

Eight pages from the minutes of the above meeting are copied below:

Again the writer believes it is fair and accurate to say that the SCOWG felt we had made satisfactory progress from this point of view during our first year, and further felt we had shown that there were promising accomplishments could be achieved in what we called more size and strength.

"Naturally, in this DOCUMENT, composed of one of this caliber, dedicated to so worthy and important a purpose, I shall take the confidential nature of all that is said for granted, and consequently I shall speak, and hope we can all feel free to speak, with the utmost frankness about any person.

1/21/60 = Lt. Gen. Charles B. Stone III (USAF, Retired) was added as a member of the JBS National Council. Stone was CEO of United States Leasing Corporation in San Francisco.

2/10/60 = Edward P. Hamilton of Two Rivers, WI was added as a member of the JBS National Council. Hamilton was President of Hamilton Manufacturing Company and a former President of the Wisconsin Manufacturers Association.

The complete list of the first JBS National Council members is below. The asterisked names refer to individuals who ultimately terminated their JBS membership---sometimes with caustic remarks about Robert Welch.

Dr. Nathaniel E. Adamson Jr.

Thomas J. Anderson

T. Coleman Andrews

John T. Beatty

*Spruille Braden

Col. Laurence E. Bunker

Ralph E. Davis

*Slobodan M. Draskovich

William J. Grede

Edward P. Hamilton

A.G. Heinsohn Jr. aka Heinie

*Dr. Granville F. Knight

*Fred C. Koch

Alfred Kohlberg [Kohlberg died in April 1960]

Clarence E. Manion

Frank E. Masland

William B. McMillan aka Ben McMillan

*Adolphe Menjou

*Revalo P. Oliver

Cola G. Parker

Louis Ruthenberg

James Simpson Jr.

Robert W. Stoddard

Lt. Gen. Charles B. Stone III (USAF, retired)

Ernest G. Swigert

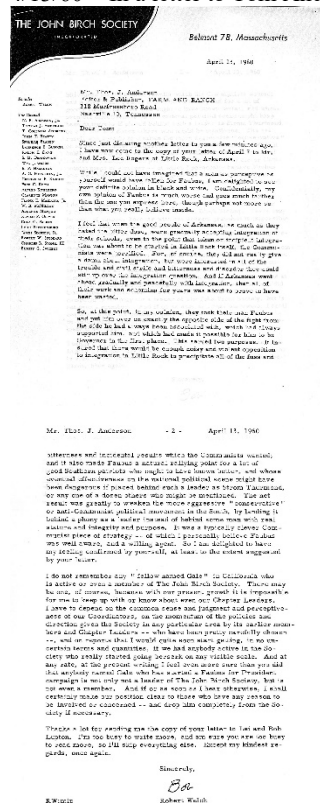
4/2/60 = Robert Welch sent a 7-page document entitled “*A Confidential Report To Members Of The COUNCIL of The John Birch Society*” which reported financial and membership data.

Among the highlights in Welch’s Report:

- The JBS-front group, Committee Against Summit Entanglements, independently raised \$58,000 during 1959 and the JBS as a whole raised about \$200,000 from member dues, contributions, fees, and other income.
- “In a brief report of progress, your Founder was glad to be able to tell the Council that the Society had just about exactly doubled in size since the first meeting of the Council on January 9. This was in chapters, which had moved from approximately 75 in number to approximately 150; in members, from approximately 1400 to approximately 2800; and in the daily average of direct income. Such income received during the three months ending March 31, 1960 was approximately \$51,500. This is against a total of \$71,225.80 for the twelve months of 1959. Bank balance at the end of March 1960 was \$14,804.50; undeposited cash on hand, approximately \$1500 and value of 40 shares of Sunbeam Stock which had been received as a donation, approximately \$2200. Your Society now has one full-time salaried Coordinator each in New England, Michigan, Tennessee, Louisiana, Texas, Oregon, and two in California. It has Volunteer Coordinators each devoting an important part of his energy and time to the Society, in Wisconsin, Florida, Texas (4), California, and Washington.”
- “Despite our wish to avoid publicity all we can, there have been items or brief articles about The John Birch Society breaking out in the press recently in various papers all over the country—and elsewhere...But we know that as soon as the major media of communications in America learn enough about us and our activities, their treatment of The John Birch Society will – in all but a very few cases anyway – be anything but favorable. So, for this and many other reasons, we should like to have the help of our COUNCIL members in keeping general publicity about us to a minimum.”
- Welch discussed *The Dilling Bulletin* of October 1959 – published by Elizabeth Dilling. He mentioned the editorial he wrote about it in the December 1959 issue of the JBS monthly magazine, *American Opinion*. Welch described Dilling’s publication as “the monthly bulletin of one of the best-known ‘extremists’ on the anti-Communist side of the current ideological wars. That bulletin took your editor to pieces, mercilessly, on the grounds that his Committee Against Summit Entanglements consisted of ‘*nothing but Jews and Jew-kissers.*’ Welch observed: “You will find specific references to myself on pages 5, 6, 16, 18, and 19 of the *Dilling Bulletin*. But actually the whole issue is, to a considerable extent, an attack on me because of

my support of Jacques Soustelle in France and Barry Goldwater in this country, both of whom are bêtes noires to Mrs. Dilling and her friends because they both happen to have Jewish blood in their ancestry (though both were born and raised in the Protestant church.”

4/13/60 = In a letter to Tom Anderson, Welch presented his argument that Gov. Orval Faubus of Arkansas was actually a Communist.



4/26/60 = M.T. Phelps became a JBS National Council member. Phelps was the Chief Justice of the Arizona Supreme Court.

5/3/60 = Robert Welch letter to FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover suggested that they meet. Welch wrote:

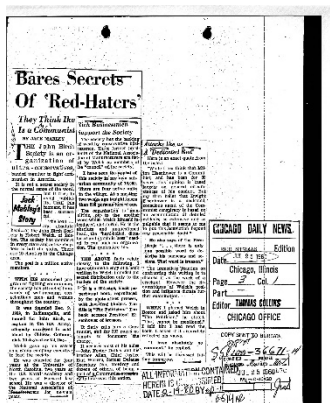
"There is nobody in this fight who has supported the FBI and yourself more unceasingly, uncompromisingly, or enthusiastically, and nobody who more firmly expects to keep right on doing so. When your book provoked a lot of grumbling, and even some loud and rabid dissent on the part of some of your former strong supporters, because of what they considered your too favorable attitude toward the NAACP and other organizations, I wrote many pages of letters to some of these people to calm them down -- the essence of which was that, whether you had leaned over too far backward to try to be fair in some of these cases or not, you had been for too many years and still were too great and too effective a patriot for any such withdrawal or lessening of moral support to be justified. And I am sure that you would find our treatment of *Masters of Deceit in American Opinion*, one of the most favorable which the book received. All of this, as I am sure you have surmised, is merely an introduction to saying that I should like very much to have a chance for at least a brief visit with you; and that I should be glad to go to Washington for that purpose, at any time which would be convenient for yourself...In the meantime, with my continuing admiration and kind regards, I am - Sincerely, Robert Welch." Hoover politely declined to meet with Welch.

5/17/60 = In a 3-page memo addressed “*To All Members of the COUNCIL*”, Robert Welch made the following observations:

- Next National Council meeting scheduled for 6/18/60 in Chicago at Union League Club
- CASE (Committee Against Summit Entanglements) produced and mailed 600,000 postcards and “the editorial message on those cards was reprinted in full (as a letter to the editor, or as an actual editorial or otherwise) in papers with a total circulation of about three million...”
- “That the Communists, having decided on ‘*postponement*’ would find some way to seize the initiative, twist appearances, save face and make it seem that the conference has been ‘*postponed*’ for their reasons, was to be expected...And that our government would go through every necessary motion of designed ‘*blunders*’ and self-abasement, to help the Soviets put over their play (whatever it might be), was as certain as that Washington will keep on subsidizing Castro.”
- “Invitations are now going out to various influential conservatives all over the country to attend the twenty-fifth full two-day ‘*top level*’ presentation of the background, methods, and purposes of our Society, also in Chicago, on June 24 and 25.”

7/5/60 = Robert Welch memo "To Members of The COUNCIL" stated that "We have about 270 chapters and about 4300 members (including a few hundred Home Chapter members..." Welch announces two new members of the JBS National Council: N. Floyd McGowin, President of the W.T. Smith Lumber Company in Chapman, Alabama and Stilwell Jay Conner of Chicago. Conner formed the first JBS chapter in Chicago and was a major financial contributor to the JBS.

7/25-26/60 = The first newspaper articles by reporter Jack Mabley about the existence of Welch's “private letter”, *The Politician*, are published in the *Chicago Daily News* at the precise time when the GOP National Convention is in Chicago to nominate their 1960 Presidential candidate. The publicity ignites a firestorm within Republican circles and nationally.





8/1/60 = Welch sent a letter to Chicago National Council member Slobodan Draskovich which explains how Welch perceived the adverse publicity concerning *The Politician*. Although Welch blames “the Left Wing” for trying “to damage the John Birch Society because of our growth and increasing effectiveness” – the actual culprit, as Welch later admitted, was someone whom he regarded as a major conservative anti-communist ally – Fred Schwarz, the leader of Christian Anti-Communism Crusade. See below for more details.

Welch’s letter to Draskovich is copied below:

THE JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY
Belmont 78, Massachusetts

August 1, 1960

Doctor S. M. Draskovich
448 Barry Avenue
Chicago 14, Illinois

Dear Dan:

Thanks for your letter of July 29.

My own first reaction was to send a circular letter to our Coordinators and Chapter Leaders. And I had it practically written, to go into the mail last Friday. By that time I learned, however, of the forthcoming even more vicious attack on the Society, in the Milwaukee Journal. It was obvious that a "chain reaction" had been planned, with these "exposures" popping up in one city after another. Under these circumstances, therefore, I decided that I should deal with the whole matter in rather more detail, in the August bulletin, for the benefit of all of our members.

This I have done. The bulletin is being typed for the printer today, and tonight, and will go into the mail Wednesday. I hope you will like what I have had to say, and that it will be helpful to our members. Also, at the invitation of Bob Siegrist, I am going on his midnight program in Milwaukee -- I believe it runs from 11:00 P.M. to 1:00 A.M. -- Tuesday night, to correct some of the misstatements in both the Chicago Daily News and the Milwaukee Journal articles, especially one very important and complete misstatement made by the Milwaukee Journal; and to show -- as I do in the August bulletin -- that there is absolutely no basis in fact for tying my personal and confidential manuscript, *THE POLITICIAN*, to the Society, or for trying to make the Society or its individual members responsible for my personal opinions expressed there, in any way.

Of course, the Left Wing has known all about this manuscript for two years. They have decided to use it now to try to damage the John Birch Society, because of our growth and increasing effectiveness. And while we cannot tell what the ultimate result will be, and anything may happen, as of now I believe that they have made a mistake, from their point of view. I think now that these attacks are going to strengthen the Society. But since I cover this point in the bulletin, I'll not belabor it here. I'll merely summarize by saying that the resignations, one whole week af-

August 1, 1960

ter the appearance of the Chicago articles, have been negligible, and have been more than balanced by new applications and increasing interest in the Society, on the part of people of good standing, due to these revelations of our effectiveness; and the reaffirmations of loyalty and support have given me tremendous encouragement and renewed inspiration for our task ahead.

As always, my kindest regards.

Sincerely,

Bob

RW:th

Robert Welch

P. S. On second thought, and although this letter was simply dictated to the machine in a hurry, I have decided to have it duplicated and copies sent to each one of the other members of our COUNCIL. It is the easiest way I have, and the most practical one under the present pressures here, to let them have some word from me about what has taken place. RW

An example of the type of negative publicity which caused Welch so much grief after the publication of the first two articles by Jack Mabley in the *Chicago Daily News*, is the following subsequent UPI article which accurately summarized the content of *The Politician*:

CHICAGO SUN-TIMES, Mon., Aug. 1, 1960 15

Wisconsin Group Reportedly Views Ike As Red, Traitor

MILWAUKEE (UPI)—The Milwaukee Journal reported Sunday that a society which accuses President Eisenhower of treason and brands him a Communist has grown to 10 chapters in Wisconsin during the past year.

In a front page article, written by Alex P. Dobish, the Journal said 10 chapters of the John Birch Society now flourish in Milwaukee, Wausau, Green Bay, De Pere, Oshkosh, Appleton and Eagle River.

"The ostensible purpose of the society is to fight communism and influence American politics," the Journal said. "Its members include such leading citizens as William J. Grede, Milwaukee industrialist."

The founder of the society, according to the Journal, is Robert H. W. Welch Jr., 61, of Belmont, Mass., "a persuasive speaker, conservative and the author of *The Politician*."

The book was described as a 302-page privately reproduced volume which Welch has sent to leaders of the society telling them "it is strictly confidential and for your eyes only."

"It claims," the Journal said, "That Mr. Eisenhower's brother, Milton, is the President's superior in the party and that a dozen other highly placed government men are either outright Communists or tools of the party."

The book says former President Franklin D. Roosevelt was unknowingly used by the party.

Ex-President Harry S. Truman was knowingly used and as for President Eisenhower, the Journal said Page 268 in the book said:

"In my opinion, the Communists have one of their own actually in the presidency. For this third man, Eisenhower, there is only one possible word to describe his purposes and actions. That word is treason."

Seek 1,000,000 Members

The Journal said Richard Johnson, a Green Bay accountant, is in charge of organizing upstate Wisconsin activities. The Journal quoted Johnson as saying Welch's goal is 1,000,000 members. He wouldn't say how many members there are nationally at this time, the Journal said.

Johnson, according to the Journal, said "organization is going nicely in Wisconsin. Wisconsin is a good conservative state."

Grede was quoted as saying he was a council member of the society. The Journal said Grede "didn't think Eisenhower was a Communist and said he had no comment about the book."

The society was named after John Birch, an American Army captain and Fundamentalist Baptist minister, who allegedly was murdered by Chinese Communists 10 days after V-J Day, according to the Journal story.

Vacationer Slips, Plunges To Death Over 100-Ft. Falls

MALIBU LODGE, B.C. (AP)—John H. Durkee, 22, slipped into water near the top of Chatterbox Falls at the head of Princess Louise Inlet and was carried over the 100-foot falls.

His father, Gerald W. Durkee of Tacoma, Wash., in a boat below, helped pull the badly injured man from the water.

A radio call was sent for help. But he died minutes before an RCAF plane arrived with a doctor.

Young Durkee was vacationing with his parents, two brothers and a sister on the family yacht in the remote area.

He and three others had climbed the rocks beside the falls before the accident. He was on leave from duty with the Air Force in Idaho.

8/11/60 = Welch sent a memo to all JBS National Council members (copied below) regarding what he described as "the smear campaign" against the JBS which occurred as a consequence of accurate publicity concerning the content of *The Politician*.

August 11, 1960

To All Members Of The COUNCIL:

This is a confirmation and reminder that the next meeting of the COUNCIL will be at this office, 395 Concord Avenue, Belmont, Massachusetts, beginning sharply at 9:00 A.M. on Saturday, September 10. Late that afternoon we'll adjourn to the Harvard Club of Boston for dinner, and then continue the meeting as far into the evening as may seem advisable.

The storm over the newspaper attacks, based on quotations from The Politician, has now pretty well evaporated. Present indications are that it has made the Society stronger; and that the Left Wing made a mistake, from their point of view, in thus causing a lot of people to start wondering about some sinister possibilities which they had not considered before. There is little point in my saying more about the whole episode here, however, but for three brief comments:

(1) As soon as we get over the decimated condition of this office, due to reactions, we are going to start calling back in all copies of The Politician that are outstanding. We do not think our having done so earlier would have made the slightest difference with regard to the recent attacks, because the copy used was one we had sent out in the early fall of 1958. Nor do we think that we shall be able to get all copies back. But we believe that a conscientious attempt to do so will put us in a stronger position with regard to any future possible attacks on the same grounds.

(2) The unhesitating support of members of our COUNCIL, during the recent smear campaign, at whatever cost to themselves, is bound to have been a terrific surprise to the Left, and calls for gratitude on my part beyond my power to express. Those members who, to my knowledge, were hammered at viciously and extensively by the "liberals" for being members of our COUNCIL, were Coleman Andrews, Jay Conner, Dr. S. M. Draskovich, Bill Grede and Cola Parker. There may have been others -- or may still be. We'll find out at the meeting of the COUNCIL on September 10. But those five really "took it," and kept right on backing myself and the Society with their full -- and powerful -- moral support. Bill Grede in particular, both because of his unusual problems and circumstances at the time, and because he was singled out for attack and ridicule by some of the more "liberal" papers, deserves the most fervent thanks of every member of The John Birch Society. Winding up his statement for both his employees and the press with the comment that he was proud to be a member of The John Birch

- 2 -

Society took the same kind of courage as shown by the signers of our Declaration of Independence six generations ago. As did Cola Parker's stand, when interviewed by two newspapers, and that of each of the others.

(3) The loyalty of our membership as a whole was no less firm than that of our COUNCIL. We have not had one single resignation from Wisconsin, where the smear was worst. The total resignations to date have been nine from Illinois and one from Indiana. And almost all of those resigning had only recently become members of the Society. In Greater Chicago we now have approximately fifty more members than we had when the storm first broke, in the suburb of Glenview, over The Politician. And every one of the sixty new members, giving us the net increase of fifty, knew about the manuscript (and what it says) when he joined. There are enough patriotic citizens in this country really stirred up about the stealthy Communist advance to stop it -- if we can just find them, and coordinate their opposition, in time.

We shall have this need, the outlook, and many policies and plans, to discuss at the COUNCIL meeting on September 10. Will each of you please come who can -- it is important -- and let me know soon that you will be here.

In the meantime, my warmest thanks and kindest regards to each of you, one and all.

Sincerely,

Robert Welch

Robert Welch

CHAPTER.....Time Period.....URL

JBS 9-1 / 01/58 thru 08/11/60 = <https://sites.google.com/site/ernie1241/>

JBS 9-2 / 09/60/60 thru 12/15/61 = <https://sites.google.com/site/ernie1241a/>

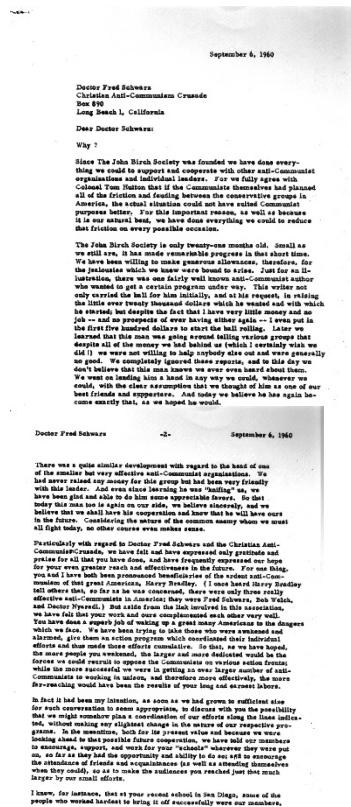
JBS 9-3 / 01/62 thru 12/31/64 = <https://sites.google.com/site/ernie1241b/>

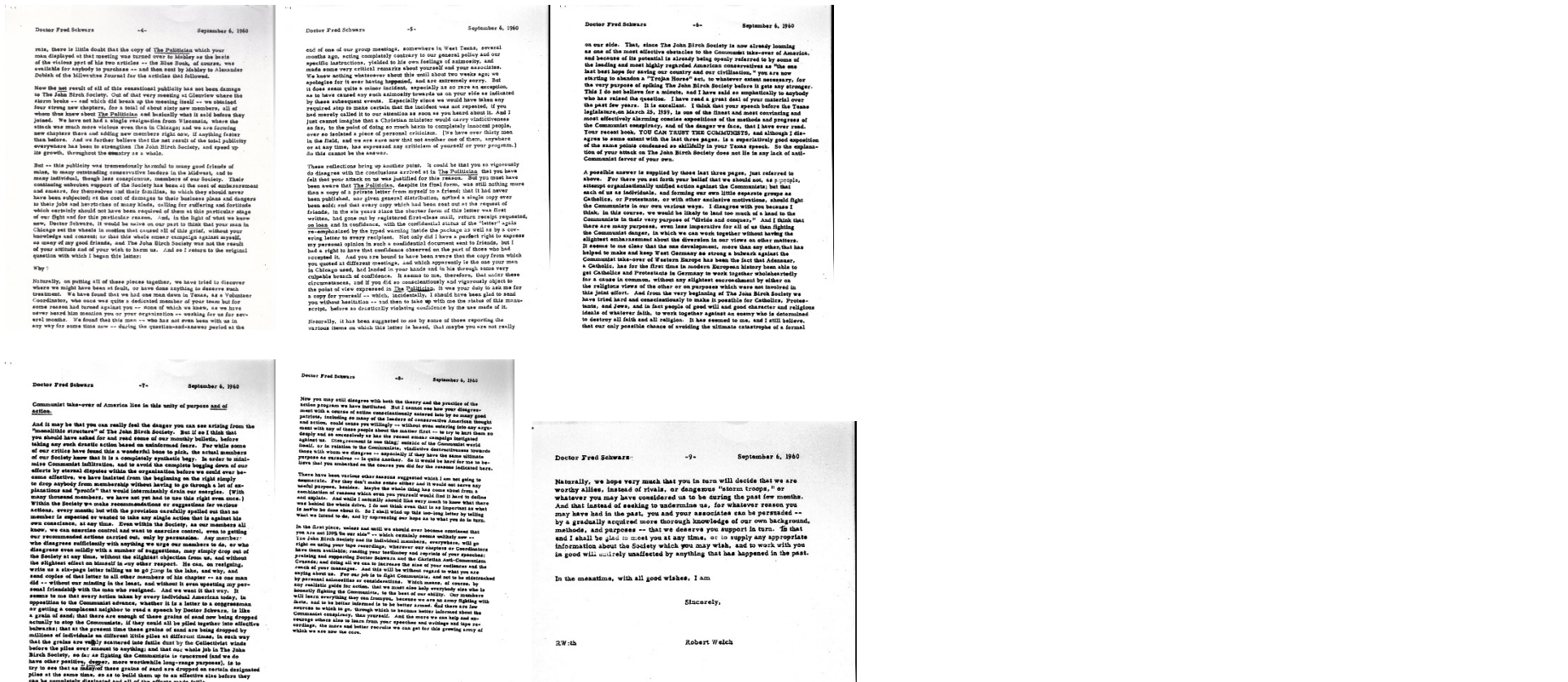
JBS 9-4 / 01/65 thru 12/31/65 = <https://sites.google.com/site/jbs9004/>

JBS 9-5 / 01/66 thru current = <https://sites.google.com/site/jbs9005a/>

1960--continued

9/6/60 = In a blistering letter to Fred Schwarz of Christian Anti-Communism Crusade, Welch expresses incredulity that Schwarz would attempt to undermine and bad-mouth the JBS. This letter is also significant because it, too, falsifies standard JBS dogma about the “*Communist*” origins of the “*smear attack*” on the JBS.





9/14/60 = Robert Welch memo "To All Members of The COUNCIL" reports statistical information concerning JBS chapters and members:

"...that on Saturday, September 10, we had 324 chapters and approximately 5300 members. This represents a gain of 84 chapters and about 1500 members since the last meeting of the COUNCIL on June 18...We had only 75 chapters and 1500 members at the first meeting of the COUNCIL last January..."

11/16/60 = Robert Welch memo "To All Members of The COUNCIL" states that the next Council meeting will be held on December 10, 1960 at the Harvard Club in New York City. Item #2 on the agenda, according to Welch would be:

"A brief report of the various smears of, and attacks on, the Society during the past few months. Not all of these attacks are known to some members of our COUNCIL, and some of them are not known to any members. We shall seek the COUNCIL'S advice on basic policy, with regard to such attacks in the future."

This is a particularly significant item because it falsifies subsequent JBS mythology concerning the "Communist" origins of "smear attacks" against the JBS.

Standard JBS dogma maintains that attacks upon the JBS (aka the "smear campaign") began as a consequence of "orders" from Moscow in December 1960 and those "orders" resulted in a "mother article" which appeared in the February 25, 1961 issue of the Communist newspaper, People's World.

See, for example, former FBI Special Agent W. Cleon Skousen's fictional account here: <http://www.zeios.com/OurRepublic/Article/27>

"Because the Birch Society was practically unknown to the general American public I wondered how the Communist Party would launch its campaign. I had no idea that the legitimate American press would fall for the line which the Communists were about to broadcast.

On February 25, 1961, the official Communist newspaper on the West Coast called the *Daily People's World*, fired the opening broadside. The article was entitled, "*Enter (from Stage Right) THE JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY.*" The article depicted the John Birchers as a secret, Fascist society and said that it was setting up 'cells' all across the country.

Of course, the *People's World* has a very limited distribution which would do little damage, but the thing which astonished me was the rapidity with which the transmission belt began to function so that this story was planted in one major news medium after another until finally even some of the more conservative papers had taken up the hue and cry."

The reality, as Welch acknowledged to his Council in November 1960, is that the "attacks" and "smears" began "during the past few months" – not as a result of any Communist newspaper article in February 1961. In fact, in the opening paragraph of the September 1960 *JBS Bulletin*, Welch lamented that:

"For the past five weeks – it seems like five months – the John Birch Society has lived through one massive smear campaign on a national scale, and several regional attacks with varying degrees of plausibility, reach, and impact."

Furthermore, see details above concerning Welch's 4/60 Report to the JBS National Council which includes a discussion of the attack on Welch and the JBS by Elizabeth Dilling.

1961

2/61 = FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover requested a summary memo concerning what was known about Robert Welch and the John Birch Society. The resulting 2/7/61 memo from a Section Chief in the Domestic Intelligence Division to the Assistant Director in charge of that Division concluded:

"We have been closely watching the activities of the JBS through the information supplied by the field. However, to date no information has been received indicating subversive elements have infiltrated or taken over any chapters of JBS. Also, no information has been received indicating JBS is operating as a 'hate' group or that its activities warrant investigation by the Bureau. To conduct any investigation of this anticommunist group could possibly cause embarrassment to the Bureau as most of the people active in the chapters of JBS are community leaders, leading businessmen and respected citizens. Some also appear to be crackpots." [FBI HQ file 62-104401, #639; 2/7/61 summary memo from F.J. Baumgardner to Alan H. Belmont]

2/10/61 = Robert Welch letter to Dr. Lawrence A. Lacey regarding "Communist-Zionist Conspiracy":

Dr. Lawrence A. Lacey
2003 Winnebago Street
Madison 4, Wisconsin

During each month I edit, and write a lot of the copy for, the *Morgeson, Anomalous OPINION*, which runs from twenty Goodness to forty Goodness words of editorial content per issue. Each month I write, with great pleasure, the *Goodness* column, which is a monthly column of Goodness words of John March Society. I am trying hard to keep up with all of the organizational and growing pains of The John March Society which, in addition to the *Goodness* column, comes from merely a conception in an organization with thirty-five members. I have been writing for the past about twenty-five full paid Coordinators in the field, and about fifty Coordinators in the field who are on a volunteer basis as to some part of the work. I have been writing for the past about twenty-five full paid and make a considerable number of speeches. Despite every effort of our people here to handle calls for me, I have to spend from twenty to thirty hours per month in the field, and I am, therefore, addressing inquiries or attempting to solve problems of a wide variety of people, and the quantity of equalized complexity. On top of that, some say indicated by the enclosed memorandum, we receive about fifty hundred letters each month, and I have to write back to each of them. I have to write back to each of them personally to improve on arguments on every

Since I own and have read practically every book on the list on Page 2 of your letter, since I have had subscribed to, or made contributions so as to receive every issue of Conde McGinley's COMMON SENSE -- I believe -- since the day the paper was started; since I had subscribed for years to the paper put out by Robert Williams, and bought all of his pamphlets; and since I have read and studied a great deal of other material along the same lines, your assumption of my ignorance on this subject is not too well founded.

[Since I] am in touch with, and count among my personal friends, almost every one of the leading anti-Communists in America today, since I have also discovered the Communist conspiracy from many different angles, and since I have been working with Spingarn and other anti-Communist leaders like Jacques Fournelle and many other leading anti-Communists in other parts of the world, and as in contact both by correspondence with some of the anti-Communist leaders in Europe and Latin America, and by direct contact with them in other countries; since I pointed out before Castro ever came to power in Cuba that he was beyond any question an actual Communist agent, and since I had already written and published several books on this subject; first published in America to state unequivocally that both the Porras, Tugueiras, and the Thompson Insurrection in 1956 had been provoked by the Communists; since I have been writing and publishing articles and books on these subjects with similar titles which are now being widely read, and since I could fill several pages with similar items which are now appearing in newspapers and magazines; since your attorneys charge that I use ridiculous logic with regard to the Communist conspiracy or conspirators, and cannot understand it, will

[illegible]

Dr. Lawrence A. Lacey -4- February 10, 1961

Frankly, Dr. Lacey, I think that blaming the whole Communist conspiracy today, or during the past decade, on the Jews is an extremely dangerous over-simplification of our problem, and exactly what the Communists (including those who pose as Jews) want us to do. And I simply cannot go along with it.

Row:th

Robert Welch

[illegible][illegible][illegible]

Kysinski does, for instance -- deserves much more credit probably than do you and I. And the fact still remains that the vast majority of the ordinary

2/17/61 = The Boston FBI field office sent J. Edgar Hoover a very detailed background report concerning Robert Welch and the JBS. Some of the information which Boston obtained was from former FBI informant Herbert Philbrick (of *I Led 3 Lives* fame) who stated that he was a Home Chapter member of the JBS.

Boston reported the following:

(1) *American Opinion* magazine (formerly known as *One Man's Opinion*) - was incorporated 1/13/56. The President and Treasurer was Robert H.W. Welch Jr of 43 Fletcher Road - Belmont MA. The Clerk/Secretary was Ellen M. Lovett of Cambridge MA. The Directors were Robert Welch, Ellen Lovett and Ellen Douglas Gucker. Welch held 1001 shares of common stock. A financial statement filed 4/23/58 showed assets of \$27,320.85. A financial statement dated 6/3/59 showed assets of \$65,003.54 and a financial statement dated 6/27/60 showed assets of \$77,475.82.

(2) John Birch Society, Inc. was incorporated 12/23/58 and given charter number 624-300. The officers were the same as for American Opinion magazine. The Directors listed were Mary M. White of West Concord MA, Robert Welch, and Ellen Lovett. The incorporators were: Robert Welch, Marian Probert Welch (Robert's wife), Ellen M. Lovett of Cambridge MA, Mary M. White of West Concord MA; Ellen Douglas Snow aka Mrs. Stanley Carman Snow, formerly Mrs. Alexander Gucker of Belmont MA; Philip L. Jenkins of Brockton MA and Juliette D. Guild of Hingham MA.

(3) Robert H.W. Welch Jr: He was born in Edenton NC on 12/1/1899. He married Marian Probert in 1922 and had 2 sons, Robert Jr. born 1923 and Hillard W. Welch born 1925.

Robert H.W. Welch enrolled in the U.S. Naval Academy at Annapolis MD during World War I and during World War II he served on the Advisory Commission of the Office of Price Administration for the candy industry. In 1922, Welch founded the Oxford Candy Company and was its Sales Manager in 1935. Beginning in 1940, he was Vice President and Director of Sales and Advertising of his brother's candy company, The James O. Welch Company of Cambridge MA. In 1947, Welch was the recipient of the Kettle Award by the candy industry. From 1940-1944, Welch was a Board member of the Massachusetts Chess Federation.

From 1951 to 1954, he was a member of the Belmont MA School Committee and served as Director of several small businesses and one bank. He served as Chairman of the Board of the Washington Commission of the National Association of Candy Manufacturers and also was a member of the Board of Directors of the United Prison Association. From 1951-1957 he was a Director of the National Association of Manufacturers, being its Vice President from 1955-1957. In 1941, he authored the book, *The Road To Salesmanship*. In 1952 his book, *May God Forgive Us* was published and in 1954, *The Life of John Birch*.

2/25/61 = What the Birch Society describes as the "*mother article*" which launched a "*smear attack*" upon the JBS in the mainstream media (such as *Time* magazine about a week later) is published in the Communist newspaper, *People's World*. The article is copied below.



[illegible][illegible]

Mr. Otto Chandler: - 2 - March 13, 1961

any agreement.

As yet we hope, and we certainly believe, that you yourself and your associates will come to see in time that we are on exactly the same side you are, in the foregoing struggle to preserve our country and its liberties. We are confident that we are being so widely mislabeled with regard to our "methods," while praised for our "intentions," that we are bound to have the support of all who are expected many of even our good friends and fellow "persecutors" to fall far to the left, as they certainly have done. But what we want right now -- and the specific reason, at long last, for this request -- is to show our own members the kind of criticism that are made of us, however unjustifiably, by a responsible person or persons in a large circulation, so that we may deal with it with almost exactly the same ultimate aims as our own.

A careful study of these criticisms on the part of our whole membership will lead to a great deal more understanding and least some of the inevitable misunderstanding, and doing a better job of presenting our case. It will also lead to a more complete understanding of our fellow citizens really understand the nature, methods, and consequences of the conspiracy to destroy our country, and to the whole conspiracy to root -- we can get on with our point-to-point or help-to-help methods -- to root out the conspirators and to restore a greater sense of individual responsibility, in a world so full of large organizations, to the individual citizen.

If you are willing for us to reprints as indicated, and if you will be kind enough to send us for that purpose clean transcripts containing only the five articles and the editorial, the favor will be much appreciated.

And with all good wishes, I am

Sincerely,

Robert Welch

Robt Welch

This morning I have received from one of our members a copy of your memorandum concerning The John Birch Society, which he says you sent him with the comment that you had previously prepared it for your own information. And I want you to know that your generous and

[illegible][illegible]

and similar audiences -- have been responsible for more showings of this film than all other groups and individuals in America put together. And we have had plenty of reports to indicate that the ACLU is aware of this, even if many of our anti-Communist friends are not.

[illegible][illegible][illegible]

It is because of these and similar activities on our part, as well as because our steady growth and the dedication of our members represent not a potential threat to the Communist Conspiracy, that this work-

campaign has been unleashed against us. The increasingly control theme is: "Of course we like what The John Birch Society is trying to do, but we can't stand their methods." They disagree and vary the wording somewhat, so as to keep the animosity of this theme from explicit programs being too obvious. But in very slight disguise it is now popping up everywhere. And I certainly do not have to tell you the significance of that method of attack.

[illegible][illegible]

The whole question, as to whether America survives against the destruction and subversion planned for it by the Communists, depends on how well and how firmly the anti-Communists stand together, on how easily they allow Communists to be treated to pleasant material. And although I am sure you know this, I could not refrain from repeating you of it in connection with the current attacks on us and other developments since your memorandum was written.

Starting absolutely from scratch only a little over two years ago, we now have about twenty-five people here in the Ross Office, about thirty Coordinators in the field who are fully paid as to salary and expenses, and about a hundred volunteers occasionally who are paid only a part or none of their salary and expenses. We have developed a formula of rigid discipline and growth and expansion, which is no pre-requisite or disadvantage of the Communists, but the only thing which has happened since they destroyed Joe McCarthy is that nothing which McCarthy's friends had stood by him through life and death, there is no telling how many exposures of Communists, or in how high places, this struggle which engulfs us all. The Communists may be able to destroy us by the time they are destroyed. But I doubt it, because we are never going to stop fighting at any time. We intend to win this struggle -- and we intend to help all others doing so -- despite the fact that it is now "after eleven o'clock" -- we must and we certainly need all of the moral support we can get from such informed and patriotic Congressmen as yourself -- and partly for the support that our members can give you and all other persons in turn.

So, being most appreciative of the memorandum about us which you have been sending to your constituents, we are simply asking that, as a part of your own patriotic sacrifice and effort, you continue to do whatever you can, whenever you can, to have the facts about us presented fairly, and the real background, attitude, and purpose of the John Birch Society properly understood. And with all good wishes and kind regards, I am

Sincerely,

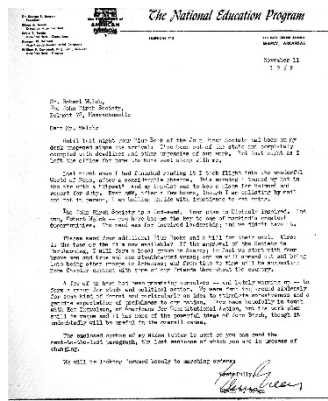
Robert Welch
Robert Welch

7/1/59

3/20/61 WELCH LETTER PAGE 2:

Welch states: "Our people have also been responsible for the production, and then during the past two months for literally thousands of showings, of a film strip called *COMMUNISM ON THE MAP*, which merely depicts factually the steady geographical advance of Communism since 1917, and especially during the past fifteen years. This film strip was conceived, prepared, and produced by an ardent member of the John Birch Society, partly from our materials. And it has been so effective that it was being shown every extensively at naval installations all over the country, by naval personnel until -- according to reports we have now received -- leftwing influences of some kind were able to get these showings by and for naval personnel stopped almost entirely."

The "ardent member" referred to by Welch was Glenn A. Green -- Executive Vice President of the National Education Program headed by George S. Benson (located at Harding College, Searcy AR). More about Harding College below. See Glenn Green's 11/11/59 letter to Robert Welch here:



In February 1961, Cong. William Tuck of Virginia sent a letter to FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover which reported that: "As you may know, Coleman Andrews and his son Coleman Jr., have been presenting Dr. George Benson's '*Communism on the Map*' to audiences in the City of Richmond on an average of about twice a week for the past three months."

The FBI received numerous inquiries from concerned citizens around the country who wanted to know if the assertions made in the filmstrip were accurate.

The FBI obtained a copy of the filmstrip from the U.S. Navy in December 1960 and it was reviewed by senior Bureau officials in its Domestic Intelligence Division. The file copy of Hoover's 2/7/61 reply to Cong. Tuck contains the following notation:

"The film strip '*Communism on the Map*' was prepared by the National Education Program, Searcy AR, of which Mr. George S. Benson is President...This film was reviewed by Bureau Officials on 12-22-60, at which time the consensus of opinion of the Agents reviewing it was it is not the type of material which should be endorsed by the Bureau. It frequently dealt in half truths, distortion of truths and innuendos to establish its point that international communism is encircling America." [FBI HQ file 77-55206, #58; Cong. William Tuck of VA 2/2/61 letter to J. Edgar Hoover and Hoover's reply]

The original December 1960 FBI review of the filmstrip was as follows:

page 1:

"In recent months we have received a number of inquiries concerning a lecture and film strip entitled *Communism on the Map*. The Bureau has had no information concerning this lecture and accordingly, through Liaison, a copy of the taped lecture and film strip was obtained on loan from the Department of the Navy through Lt. Commander C.S. Williams, Aide to Vice Admiral William R. Smedberg III, Chief of Bureau of Naval Personnel. Admiral Smedberg had considered the film biased."

"This lecture and film strip was reviewed on December 22, 1960 by Section Chief G.H. Scatterday and Special Agents C.D. Brennan, (name deleted), V.E. Ruehl, and (names deleted). The lecture and film strip was prepared by the National Education Program, Searcy Arkansas of which George Benson is on the Bureau's special correspondents list..."

"The film stressed the rise of international communism from its beginning in Russia to its current alleged encirclement of the United States. It covered Soviet infiltration and control of various European, African and Asian countries and indicated substantial Soviet infiltration into South America, Latin America, and Canada, which is gradually encircling the United States. The principal theme of the lecture is based upon an alleged statement by Lenin, '*First we will take Eastern Europe. Next, the masses of Asia. Then we shall encircle the last bastion of capitalism, the United States of America. We shall not have to attack. It will fall like an overripe fruit into our hands.*' In this connection, it should be noted that this alleged statement has previously come to the Bureau's attention and extensive research by the Central Research Section has failed to establish that this or a similar statement was ever attributed to Lenin."

Page 2:

"Through such statements and the use of pictures, newspaper headlines and maps, the lecture and film strip frequently deal in half truths, distortion of truth and innuendos to establish its point, that international communism is encircling America. Through references to activities in the 1940's, it infers that the United States Government is heavily infiltrated by communists at the present time. These references refer to the days of Coplon, Hiss, and others; however, through the distorted presentation of this material, the average person may believe there are currently many communists in Government service. Although the FBI is not mentioned by name, the lecture and film strip could well be interpreted as indirectly implying that the FBI has been most derelict in its duties in not eliminating spies and communists from Government service."

"It was the consensus of opinion of the Agents reviewing the lecture and film strip that it is not the type of material which should be used or endorsed by the FBI."

The "Recommendations" section of memo includes following notation: "Suggest we tell Williams for the Admiral's information, that we agree with Admiral Smedberg that the film is biased." Hoover wrote "OK" and initialed the suggestion – which was "handled 1/3/61".

MORE ABOUT HARDING COLLEGE - Searcy AR

In September 1965, James D. Bales, Professor of Christian Doctrine at Harding College (Searcy AR), sought permission from the FBI to publish a compilation of J. Edgar Hoover's public comments about communism but Hoover refused to authorize such a publication.

One FBI memo reports that Bales had written to Robert Welch to inquire if the JBS publishing house (Western Islands) would be interested in publishing such a compilation of Hoover's comments about communism, to be entitled "*J. Edgar Hoover on Communism*". Robert Welch was enthusiastic and the JBS drew up a contract with Bales. A JBS representative met with an FBI Special Agent in Boston to discuss the idea. [FBI HQ file 62-104401, #3151; 6/26/67 memo from R.E. Wick to Assistant Director Cartha D. DeLoach, page 1.]

Page 2 of the memo has the following summary of the 1965 contact by Bales:

"In a memorandum prepared at this time, it was noted that Bales corresponded frequently with the Bureau and that Harding College is well known as a right-wing anticommunist center (and) is a source of extremist-type literature in the field of anti-communism. It was noted that it would be highly unwise for the Director to be associated publicly with Harding College."

Bales sent a letter to J. Edgar Hoover dated 9/14/66 stating that despite the FBI's rejection of his proposal, he intended to go forward with it because Hoover's comments were already in the public domain. The FBI memo then observes:

"Following receipt of the above letter from Bales, he was removed from the Special Correspondents' List and he was again told the Director could not give any permission to either publish this manuscript as a book or to circulate it in any manner."

Page 3 of memo "*Observations and Recommendation*" observes:

"It is felt the Director should remain firm in continuing to deny Bales and also the JBS permission to publish excerpts from the Director's quotations on communism. It is not felt that such a book could possibly give a balanced view of the Director's statements and in view of the extremist position taken by both Bales and the Birch Society, it is anticipated that the Director could be subject to public criticism by any implied association with Bales and the Birch Society."

3/20/61 WELCH LETTER PAGE 3

Welch repeats standard mythology about his so-called book-length "*private letter*", *The Politician*: "By the time The John Birch Society was even founded I had stopped making copies of this '*long letter*', we were letting it fade out of the picture, and it has never been any part of the materials of The John Birch Society in any way."

The reality is that during 1959 and 1960 Welch used *The Politician* as a recruitment tool for the John Birch Society. He sent copies of his unpublished "*private letter*" to many individuals and he asked them to read and believe its content -- and then join the JBS to do something about "*the conspiracy*" discussed in its pages. This is confirmed by both the FBI and a 1960 Naval Intelligence Report. In fact, as late as December 27, 1961, T. Coleman Andrews wrote the following letter to Welch:

"Dear Bob: This is just to remind you that you said you would let me have another look at *The Politician*. Lon Backman tells me that you loaned him a copy recently and that he has now finished reading it and could send it over to me if it would be all right for him to do so."

See chapter 1 of my JBS Report for details as well as scanned copies of documents which establish that Welch deliberately lied about this matter.

<https://sites.google.com/site/ernie124102/jbs-1>

3/22/61 = Robert Welch "*To All Members of Our COUNCIL*": Welch discusses the announcement by Gov. Edmund Brown of California that the JBS will be the subject of an investigation by the California State Senate Factfinding Subcommittee on Un-American Activities.

In typical Bircher fashion, all investigative interest in the JBS is characterized as the result of "*utterly ruthless members of a conspiracy*". At the first meeting of the JBS National Council in January 1960, Welch described Governor Brown (and Gov. Rockefeller of NY) as "*almost certainly actual Communists*". When the Subcommittee's Report was released in 1963, Welch was so impressed by its general factual accuracy and fairness to the JBS that he reprinted the entire Report (with some additional comments regarding "*errors*" from the JBS perspective) and sold it through the Birch Society's American Opinion bookstore chain.

THE JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY
Belmont 78, Massachusetts

March 22, 1961

To All Members Of Our COUNCIL:

So many things are happening so fast that it is impossible for me to keep you posted.

But one current development is the announcement by Governor Edmund "Pat" Brown of California that the Society is to be investigated by the California Senate Committee On Un-American Activities. After telephone calls from some of our leading members in Los Angeles I sent Governor Brown the enclosed telegram with confirming wires to Attorney General Stanley Mosk of California and Hon. Hugh H. Burns, Chairman of the State Senate Committee.

Leading members of the Society in California intend to follow this up in a few days with a further telegram bearing many signatures insisting on the proposed investigation. They have expressed the readiness of hundreds of our members to testify if needed. The renewed and intensified drive against us has been spurred to a considerable extent by Eugene Carson Blake and other left-wing leaders of the National Council of Churches. But our moral support in California is tremendous, and we are gaining far more and better members than the extremely few we are losing.

It's all part of a world none of us wanted, forced on us by utterly ruthless members of a conspiracy which simply must be destroyed before we can ever have a decent world again.

My kindest regards to one and all.

Sincerely,

Robert Welch

** about one-fourth of one percent in the whole period since the TIME article first appeared.
RW*

3/31/61 = Robert Welch sends a telegram to Sen. James O. Eastland, Chairman of the Senate Internal Security Subcommittee, asking that the Subcommittee investigate the JBS. Welch declares: "*None of our members will plead the Fifth Amendment*".

4/1/61 = Two California members of Congress (Edgar W. Hiestand and John H. Rousselot) urge a Congressional inquiry into the JBS to refute "*smears*" about the JBS. Meanwhile, the American Civil Liberties Union defends the JBS in a letter to the Chairman of the House Committee on Un-American Activities by pointing out that "*Regardless of how extreme and distorted (the Society's) views may be or how obnoxious they are to us or to the public at large, under the First Amendment, they have the right to be expressed free of government interference.*"

4/1/61 = Robert Welch "*To Members Of Our COUNCIL and A Few Other Friends*" - discusses national controversy over the JBS:

Saturday, April 1, 1961

Enclosed is copy of a formal typewritten statement which I gave yesterday to Associated Press, on the condition that they run it complete and exact.

Living through the past three weeks of such increasing pressure that many times all four of our trunk lines have been tied up simultaneously by long-distance calls from papers, television stations, and radio stations demanding interviews or statements. I had simply said "no comment, no statement, no interview" as politely as the population of the cellar would permit. And everybody else speaking for me here at the office had done the same.

Unfortunately the man sent by Associated Press to pick up the statement turned out to be a friend of mine of some years standing. And I let him persuade me to let the photographer he had with him take some pictures of me in my office. Which was a mistake, because it gave a "cooperative interview" appearance to whatever padding various papers put around my formal statement.

As had previously refused all of the hordes of photographers that descended on us, even to the extent of having bodily to wack some of the more persistent ones out of the office. (And you can get some idea of this procedure from the fact that one or more of the television stations have kept sound-camera trucks on the street outside of our building most of two afternoons, just to catch anything they could, and their crews have

been ordered off private property by our landlord when these
crows were taking pictures of our offices through the window
from the outside.)

After the very thin, somewhat, typed, photostatic statement of Mr. Kline distorted and used it as a basis to return to a police comment of any kind. But you can form some idea of what was up against him from the fact that a television station in Washington, D.C. was called to the attention of the FBI for the privilege of sending a "celebration order" to record one of our former mentions, and finding the Coordinator naturally a bit hesitant to agree, abruptly informed him: "Okay then, we'll do it." I am sure that the FBI was not at all surprised to find out that we can imagine just what the meaning they feared would look like and they are also not just how little you are going to be able to do. I am sure that you are not going to be able to do anything but just publishing the news and hear or read dealing with the news. I am sure that you are not going to be able to do anything but just publishing the news and hear or read dealing with the news. I am sure that you are not going to be able to do anything but just publishing the news and hear or read dealing with the news.

特 許 證

The one and I hope final exception to this renewed no-secure policy is in connection with the enclosed telegram sent last night to Governor Hasfield as Chairman of the Senate Internal Security Subcommittee. The request was made for two reasons, which I set out in the enclosed. The first was that the request had to be made fast, and there are equally sound reasons why that belated request be released to the press by us sometime today. I obtained such advice as I could (there was not time for very much) but in this case I shall simply have to ask you to believe me that the need for prompt action was paramount.

The forces that are out to destroy me are also incredibly vicious, brutal, extortionate, unscrupulous, and determined. This is because no assassin is free the first serious threat to his life is the second, and the second is the third, and so on. In the case of Mr. McGovern, and the secret infiltration into his place, the case tremendously furries than in McGovern's case. The fact that he is a man of such high character and integrity, and the hope of saving our country, because it affords the one practical possibility of driving the communists out of power all of these things make it a very serious matter. The fact that he is a man of such high character and integrity, and the hope of saving our country, because it affords the one practical possibility of driving the communists out of power all of these things make it a very serious matter. The fact that he is a man of such high character and integrity, and the hope of saving our country, because it affords the one practical possibility of driving the communists out of power all of these things make it a very serious matter.

We, on the other hand, do not intend to be destroyed. But we
just wanted to prevent (while there was still an opportunity)

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his explanation as to how great is our problem, and as to how
 uch greater it is likely to become,

s always, my kindest regards.

Sincerely,

Sincerely,
Robert Welch

ATD NIGHT LETTER TELEPHONED TO WESTERN UNION 3/31/61 11:05 P.M.

Senator James O. Eastland
Chairman, Senate Internal Security Subcommittee
Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C.

because of the charges now being so widely circulated about us, some of which are extreme distortions of fact and many of which are sheer fabrications. The John Birch Society respectfully requests an official investigation by the Senate Internal Security Subcommittee of which you are chairman. Some of our members are your Committee may wish to testify about the background, methods, purposes, and specific activities of the Society. And we repeat our assurance made recently to the chairman of the Committee in California that, unlike our Communist friends, some of our members will need the Fifth Amendment.

is emphasized by you in a release to the press earlier today, where we had decided to make this request. The John Birch Society is not a secret society. All of our materials are wide open for anybody to purchase. The John Birch Society is a group of men and women of good character, fervent patriots, religious ideals, and excellent standing in their respective communities. The Society has been in existence for several years. Our principal principle, "our only enemy" is right-wing Communism, and we do not intend to continue until our side wins.

We do not expect your Committee to accept these statements without careful investigation, but we would greatly appreciate the opportunity to have your Committee testify fully substantiated them, and also to answer the questions your Committee might wish to ask us. In the course of such an investigation we hope to be able to present to your Committee, and through your Committee, to the American people, the full story of the John Birch Society. And to that end, if our request is granted, we pledge our fullest cooperation. Respectfully and sincerely,

Robert Welch
Founder, The John Birch Society

Belmont 78, Massachusetts
March 31, 1961

A STATEMENT FOR THE PRESS

My name is Robert Welch. This statement is offered as an effort to place, by at least a tiny beam of truth, some of the insidious fog of falsehood now being so widely circulated about me. So please let me point out the following facts.

Nowhere in my private or published writings have I ever called former President Eisenhower a "card-carrying" Communist. Anybody who says I have is either knowingly dealing in falsehood or is badly misinformed.

even in my private confidential letter written years ago, which it has been completely unwise for anybody to quote anywhere, and which is stated in the first language of a personal letter to some dear personal relations of mine that I wrote, made it very clear at the end of the letter that I had no personal or anybody who wished to attribute his actions simply to political opportunism. But is not the letter seen to be dated "The Politician".

Also please note that this long letter had been read in 1955 by most of the men who were at the founding meeting of the John Birch Society in December, 1958. Despite having read my letter most of the men who were present at the founding of the Society in 1958 expressed and specifically disapproved by the group as being a part of the materials or belief of The John Birch Society in any way.

Please Note too that, despite falsehoods now being circulated, I have gone out of my way to make clear in my books that I did not think either Roosevelt or Truman were Communists or sympathizers in any way with violent Communist aims. And there are many other statements being attributed to me that are equally false or distorted.

The John Birch Society is not, simply because we have sought to avoid publicity, merely a secret society. Our objective has been to build strength and understanding instead of creating noise. All of our materials are wide open for anybody to purchase. The

John Birch Society is a group of splintered and perverted. The character, fervent patriotism, religious ideals, and excellent standing in their respective communities. It has broken no law, violated no moral principles, and has no a firmly stated foundation of the program that even good men never justify bad means. We as an act, the respectable part of the American press to have more regard for the truth about us. Our only "crime" is fighting Communism, and that we intend to continue until our side wins.

4/5/61 = The FBI received a phone inquiry from the Justice Department concerning what information it had concerning Robert Welch and the JBS. J. Edgar Hoover responded with a memo addressed to the Attorney General:

"We are answering inquiries from the press and public for information concerning the Society by stating that this Bureau is an investigative agency of the Federal Government and, as such, does not make evaluations or draw conclusions as to the character or integrity of any organization, publication, or individual. However, in the introduction to the *FBI Law Enforcement Bulletin* dated April 1, 1961, I specifically pointed out the need for an objective and dispassionate approach in fighting the communist menace. I felt this step was necessary because of the rash of vigilante-type individuals and organizations springing up throughout the country which tend to depart from fact and use gossip, hearsay, and unsubstantiated charges in fighting communism. In the long run, such tactics hinder rather than help in this fight." [FBI HQ file 62-104401, #990; 4/5/61 memo from Hoover to The Attorney General, captioned "The John Birch Society"]

6/7/61 = Bryton Barron of Springfield VA was a former U.S. State Department Historian. In 1960, he became a JBS Coordinator in Virginia and Washington DC area but on May 14, 1961 he resigned. In June 1961, he circulated a 4-page caustic letter (copied below) to respond to comments by Robert Welch.

[illegible]

He said that the charge that I was meddling in the Society, if I were to sign the letter and agree to do so, I must prove that my charge was in the Society's best interests.

He said that he had to answer suggestions which I made, and that I must not expect him to do so. He said that I must not expect him to do so. He said that I must not expect him to do so.

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In November 1960, Robert Welch sent Barron a 9-page single-spaced typewritten letter in which Welch pointed out that: "At about the time or just before you became a part-time Coordinator for us, you wrote me quite a long letter. In it you made clear that practically everything we were doing in The John Birch Society, in both substance and method, was completely wrong. In fact, you made it quite clear that we had to be both ignorant and childish to be making big mistakes; and with kind condescension and patronizing generosity you told us what we should be doing, and what our objectives should be."

In another letter dated May 16, 1961, Welch opened his letter to Barron by observing: "You began your career in The John Birch Society by fighting with, and bitterly criticizing, every single member of the staff with whom you came in contact, either in person or by mail or telephone."

7/10/61 = In the first example of a JBS National Council member objecting to something which Robert Welch did, Paul Talbert objected to the fact that item #10 of the members agenda in the July 1961 *JBS Bulletin* had not been discussed with, and received approval from, the Council before being adopted as official JBS policy. Item #10 called upon JBS members to begin a project of compiling data on "the leading Comsymps, Socialists, and Liberals" in the U.S. and then send such material to JBS HQ so that the Society could "build up, and have available for all future research needs, the most complete and accurate files in America...on the background, connections, and activities of all the leading Liberals (including, of course, both Comsymps and Dupes).

Copied below is item #10 from the 7/61 *JBS Bulletin* and Welch's reply in a 7/17/61 "To All Members of the COUNCIL" memo:

Save Time.

September 29, 1963

It has been hard to write this. It would have been much easier to
graciously wash my hands of the Society and resign from the Executive Committee
and the Council. But I happen to be dedicated to you and I truly believe that
it is the LORD that will make us free.

With great attention, high esteem, and complete cheer, I am as ever,

• *Key: closed circles.*

2

P.S. This may reach Belgium after your departure. For Christmas I am sending a copy to be held for your return at the British Legation Cds. I will see you when I come home.

• **Claim**

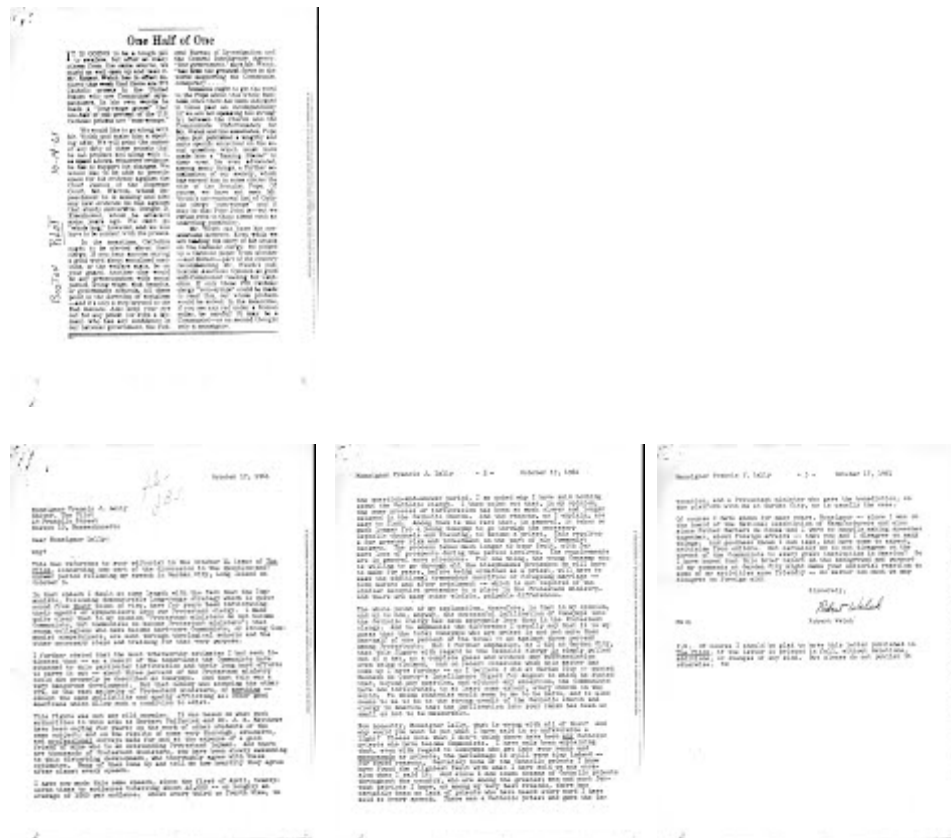
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, February 28, 2004

09/28/61 = JBS National Council member Frank Brophy responded to anti-JBS comments made by Governor Pat Brown of California. Robert Welch included a copy of Brophy's letter with the 11/61 issue of the *JBS Bulletin*, copied below.

[illegible]

10/14/61 = Monsignor Francis Lally, the Editor of the Catholic publication *Boston Pilot*, challenged Robert Welch in an editorial entitled "*One Half Of One*" to document his assertion in an October 9th speech in Garden City, Long Island, New York that one-half of one percent of Catholic priests in the U.S. were Communist sympathizers -- which would mean 273 priests.

Copied below is the editorial and Robert Welch's reply to Monsignor Lally:



It should be pointed out that neither of Welch's statistical estimates regarding the number of Protestant and Catholic clergy who could accurately be described as "*Communist*" or "*Communist sympathizer*" are correct -- according to the FBI. Welch stated that he relied upon such "*authorities in this area as Herbert Philbrick and Dr. J.B. Matthews*" but the FBI evaluation of the assertions made by J.B. Matthews in his July 1953 article which Welch relied upon for his estimate - was as follows:

In arrangement, handling of names, selection of facts, and in its implications, the article is not at all fair to the Protestant clergy of this country" and it characterized Matthew's charges as "more in the nature of sensational journalism than serious reporting of the facts." [FBI HQ file 100-5821, serial #22, 7/29/53].

11/61 = Council member Revilo Oliver issues a press release describing Robert Welch as "one of the finest and noblest men I have ever had the privilege of knowing. I believe absolutely in his integrity and his judgment, and I support him without reservation." However, 4 1/2 years later Oliver resigned from the Birch Society after making a speech with anti-semitic overtones. In his resignation letter Oliver told Welch that:

I now learn that you are not, in fact, head of the John Birch Society. I have ascertained that you are subject to the secret committee composed of Messrs. Blumenfeld, Kogan, Greener, and Solomon whose orders you must and do obey...I have written this letter in pain and anguish of heart. Whatever the causes that brought you to your present plight, I pity you. You have betrayed the great and noble Society that you founded. In deep sorrow, I bid you farewell."

STUDIES IN THE HISTORY OF SCIENCE, P. 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, 236, 237, 238, 239, 240, 241, 242, 243, 244, 245, 246, 247, 248, 249, 250, 251, 252, 253, 254, 255, 256, 257, 258, 259, 260, 261, 262, 263, 264, 265, 266, 267, 268, 269, 270, 271, 272, 273, 274, 275, 276, 277, 278, 279, 280, 281, 282, 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288, 289, 290, 291, 292, 293, 294, 295, 296, 297, 298, 299, 300, 301, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 307, 308, 309, 310, 311, 312, 313, 314, 315, 316, 317, 318, 319, 320, 321, 322, 323, 324, 325, 326, 327, 328, 329, 330, 331, 332, 333, 334, 335, 336, 337, 338, 339, 340, 341, 342, 343, 344, 345, 346, 347, 348, 349, 350, 351, 352, 353, 354, 355, 356, 357, 358, 359, 360, 361, 362, 363, 364, 365, 366, 367, 368, 369, 370, 371, 372, 373, 374, 375, 376, 377, 378, 379, 380, 381, 382, 383, 384, 385, 386, 387, 388, 389, 390, 391, 392, 393, 394, 395, 396, 397, 398, 399, 400, 401, 402, 403, 404, 405, 406, 407, 408, 409, 410, 411, 412, 413, 414, 415, 416, 417, 418, 419, 420, 421, 422, 423, 424, 425, 426, 427, 428, 429, 430, 431, 432, 433, 434, 435, 436, 437, 438, 439, 440, 441, 442, 443, 444, 445, 446, 447, 448, 449, 450, 451, 452, 453, 454, 455, 456, 457, 458, 459, 460, 461, 462, 463, 464, 465, 466, 467, 468, 469, 470, 471, 472, 473, 474, 475, 476, 477, 478, 479, 480, 481, 482, 483, 484, 485, 486, 487, 488, 489, 490, 491, 492, 493, 494, 495, 496, 497, 498, 499, 500, 501, 502, 503, 504, 505, 506, 507, 508, 509, 510, 511, 512, 513, 514, 515, 516, 517, 518, 519, 520, 521, 522, 523, 524, 525, 526, 527, 528, 529, 530, 531, 532, 533, 534, 535, 536, 537, 538, 539, 540, 541, 542, 543, 544, 545, 546, 547, 548, 549, 550, 551, 552, 553, 554, 555, 556, 557, 558, 559, 560, 561, 562, 563, 564, 565, 566, 567, 568, 569, 570, 571, 572, 573, 574, 575, 576, 577, 578, 579, 580, 581, 582, 583, 584, 585, 586, 587, 588, 589, 590, 591, 592, 593, 594, 595, 596, 597, 598, 599, 600, 601, 602, 603, 604, 605, 606, 607, 608, 609, 610, 611, 612, 613, 614, 615, 616, 617, 618, 619, 620, 621, 622, 623, 624, 625, 626, 627, 628, 629, 630, 631, 632, 633, 634, 635, 636, 637, 638, 639, 640, 641, 642, 643, 644, 645, 646, 647, 648, 649, 650, 651, 652, 653, 654, 655, 656, 657, 658, 659, 660, 661, 662, 663, 664, 665, 666, 667, 668, 669, 670, 671, 672, 673, 674, 675, 676, 677, 678, 679, 680, 681, 682, 683, 684, 685, 686, 687, 688, 689, 690, 691, 692, 693, 694, 695, 696, 697, 698, 699, 700, 701, 702, 703, 704, 705, 706, 707, 708, 709, 710, 711, 712, 713, 714, 715, 716, 717, 718, 719, 720, 721, 722, 723, 724, 725, 726, 727, 728, 729, 730, 731, 732, 733, 734, 735, 736, 737, 738, 739, 740, 741, 742, 743, 744, 745, 746, 747, 748, 749, 750, 751, 752, 753, 754, 755, 756, 757, 758, 759, 760, 761, 762, 763, 764, 765, 766, 767, 768, 769, 770, 771, 772, 773, 774, 775, 776, 777, 778, 779, 780, 781, 782, 783, 784, 785, 786, 787, 788, 789, 790, 791, 792, 793, 794, 795, 796, 797, 798, 799, 800, 801, 802, 803, 804, 805, 806, 807, 808, 809, 810, 811, 812, 813, 814, 815, 816, 817, 818, 819, 820, 821, 822, 823, 824, 825, 826, 827, 828, 829, 830, 831, 832, 833, 834, 835, 836, 837, 838, 839, 840, 841, 842, 843, 844, 845, 846, 847, 848, 849, 850, 851, 852, 853, 854, 855, 856, 857, 858, 859, 860, 861, 862, 863, 864, 865, 866, 867, 868, 869, 870, 871, 872, 873, 874, 875, 876, 877, 878, 879, 880, 881, 882, 883, 884, 885, 886, 887, 888, 889, 890, 891, 892, 893, 894, 895, 896, 897, 898, 899, 900, 901, 902, 903, 904, 905, 906, 907, 908, 909, 910, 911, 912, 913, 914, 915, 916, 917, 918, 919, 920, 921, 922, 923, 924, 925, 926, 927, 928, 929, 930, 931, 932, 933, 934, 935, 936, 937, 938, 939, 940, 941, 942, 943, 944, 945, 946, 947, 948, 949, 950, 951, 952, 953, 954, 955, 956, 9

11/20/61 = In a speech in Austin, TX, Robert Welch asserted that "[A comparatively few thousands Communists, concentrated in key departments](#)" of the U.S. government had taken the U.S. "[steadily down the road to Communism by steps supposedly designed and presented to the American public as ways of fighting Communism.](#)" Assistant Attorney General J. Walter Yeagley (Chief of Internal Security Division of the Justice Department) wrote to Welch and asked him to provide whatever facts were in his possession "[which might establish that certain Government employees are members of the Communist Party.](#)" Welch never replied.

12/5/61 = JBS National Council member Clarence Manion sends Council member T. Coleman Andrews a copy of a letter which Manion received from a JBS Chapter Leader in California. Manion handwrites on top of the letter "[Dear Coleman: This letter is only one of many.](#)" The letter expresses the frustration of the Chapter Leader concerning Robert Welch's statements about President Eisenhower being a Communist traitor contained in his unpublished private letter, *The Politician*: "[I have talked with many people. They all seem to think of the Birch Society and Welch synonymously and therefore their opinion is that it is a name-calling smear organization, etc. As I told you yesterday, the minute the Society's name comes up, so does the subject of Eisenhower and Welch. They seem to close their ears the minute that it is mentioned...After a lot of thinking and discussion on the subject, the only way that our chapter members can come to a decision on the subject is that Welch should step down, and allow the Council to be the voice of the Society. I think Welch is a terrific patriot...and would not stand for a second in the way of \(JBS\) progress.](#)"

12/15/61 = Robert Welch "*To All Chapter Leaders and Home Chapter Members*" discusses the recently-formed American Committee For Aid To Katanga Freedom Fighters which was organized by William F. Buckley Jr. Welch urges JBS members to support this Buckley enterprise.

12/61 = Rev. Richard Ginder resigns from JBS National Council.

Due to Google sites space limitations, the *Documentary History of the John Birch Society* is on 5 webpages here:

CHAPTER.....Time Period.....URL

JBS 9-1 / 01/58 thru 08/11/60 = <https://sites.google.com/site/ernie1241/>

JBS 9-2 / 09/60/60 thru 12/15/61 = <https://sites.google.com/site/ernie1241a/>

JBS 9-3 / 01/62 thru 12/31/64 = <https://sites.google.com/site/ernie1241b/>

JBS 9-4 / 01/65 thru 12/31/65 = <https://sites.google.com/site/jbs9004/>

JBS 9-5 / 01/66 thru current = <https://sites.google.com/site/jbs9005a/>

1962

01/62 = Frank Cullen Brophy of Phoenix AZ and Robert D. Love of Wichita KS and Robert H. Montgomery of Boston MA join the JBS National Council.

01/01/62 = Robert Welch sends a letter to Tom Anderson, J. Bracken Lee, M.T. Phelps and Dr. Charles C. Tansill in their capacity as judges "in our contest for the best essays by college undergraduates on GROUNDS FOR THE IMPEACHMENT OF EARL WARREN...We have reduced the number of essays to be submitted to yourselves to twelve, of which nine will win prizes."

01/31/62 = Robert Welch replied to a letter from National Council member Lt. Gen. Charles B. Stone III regarding criticisms of Welch and the JBS by William F. Buckley Jr. Welch characterized the Buckley comments as "merely on of the surface parts of a huge, many-fingered, and to some extent organized campaign, not just to discredit and get rid of me, but actually to destroy The John Birch Society or at least reduce it to the level of another innocuous and frustrated debating society." Welch's letter is copied below:

February 2, 1962

Mr. Robert D. Lowe
 Vice-President, General Manager
 Lyle and Company, Inc.
 200 N. Wacker Drive
 Chicago, Illinois

Dear Bob:

Thank you for your very thoughtful outline of answers to the 25th which I have read and say explicitly and to the very essence, yes, we told you I will be happy to work with you on removal of just those we like that we would consider a satisfactory deal.

First, I don't see any right to interference in the agreement that I'm getting from Welch about the time John Birch Society. I start by saying we're not about to control the group in the right and the wrong of the left. I don't tell them that as group or disapprove of certain individuals but I don't think we are of our constitutional rights. As I reported this day I don't think we can be obligated to do the day the organization would have to do the day they get into the situation. The way to the future and for some possible way will give a conservative a look into the future as being honest about the organization's role.

Also, I think we to see off at once, enough on organization like the one and then move forward in the official position of the day. John Birch Society and say that when they are not at their initial day even their right of speech or property, etc., that that organization has no more danger, but I have not to look at a John Birch Organization being that.

I have found that the committee maintain the image, especially if it does more harm to us as a leadership, it maintains the reputation of it.

Now as to the other, I have found that a long time and a long time personal admiration for you, as I say, I'll remember that as at least as much as I have found by now that we as a group of citizens as well as to what you are doing to their government, and I don't think we can be said to be a part of our country, etc. making public opinion that we could get from or something. I would be willing to see the day with other organizations who could have the right to speaking to a group we had to have later will find the organization or the organization more sensitive from this.

Mr. Robert D. Lowe Page Two February 2, 1962

I know this is a strong and very drastic step to take, but you see, Bob, I make an attempt of three speeches a week followed by questions and answers, and almost without exception, the question of the Birch Society comes up and when I reply them with the answer I have just outlined, the next is always "Do you believe in the things that Bob Welch says?" Having carefully kept a catalogue of all the things that he has said in the last year or so, I really must disassociate myself with most of those statements. Not all of them, mind you, but most of them.

I think the Birch Society has great potential. I think that he has done a fine job at least. Moreover I am acquainted with their activities. I further think that the only anchors hanging around the organization's neck are the intemperance, unwise, groundless statements that have been made by Bob during the past several years. Remove them and the Birch Society cannot be attacked.

That is my position but I do not intend because of it to make personal attacks on Bob for whom, as I have said, I have admiration.

With best wishes,
 Barry

Barry Goldwater

02/13/62 = *National Review* magazine publishes a highly critical article, "*The Question of Robert Welch*" which declares:

"How can the John Birch Society be an effective political instrument while it is led by a man whose views on current affairs are, at so many critical points . . . so far removed from common sense? That dilemma weighs on conservatives across America. . . . The underlying problem is whether conservatives can continue to acquiesce quietly in a rendition of the causes of the decline of the Republic and the entire Western world which is false, and, besides that, crucially different in practical emphasis from their own."

Sen. Barry Goldwater associated himself with the *National Review* position:

"I think you have clearly stated the problem which Mr. Welch's continued leadership of the John Birch Society poses for sincere conservatives. . . . Mr. Welch is only one man, and I do not believe his views, far removed from reality and common sense as they are, represent the feelings of most members of the John Birch Society. . . . Because of this, I believe the best thing Mr. Welch could do to serve the cause of anti-Communism in the United States would be to resign. . . . We cannot allow the emblem of irresponsibility to attach to the conservative banner."

02/08/62 = Council member Fred Koch sends letter to Tom Anderson: "Buckley says Welch is a wild extremist. You will be interested in the enclosed letter which bears out what Bob has been saying. Perhaps later events will show that Bob is not extreme enough." The enclosed letter is from JBS Coordinator S.C. Lyons of Dry Branch GA -- copied below:

JBS
Dry Branch, Georgia
February 4, 1962

Mr. Fred Koch
231 West Douglas Street
Minneapolis 1, Kansas

Dear Mr. Koch:

I am again the handwork of the Communists - here in their attempt to different patriotic Americans to - "Let's You And His Fight".

Where Welch takes note of this in the February Bulletin is commenting on the "whispering campaign" to displace him as head of the "John Birch Society".

This is reminiscent of the old cliché of "Joe McCarthy was on the right track and his enemies!".

However, the most disappointing development which I note is Bill Buckley's recent attack on Mr. Welch (as Welch's enemy technique of quoting from "The Pallbearer"). "The man not be a communist because he invited Eisenhower here as an honored guest of the U.S.A. and he blocked Joe McCarthy from finding out who did promote Feres!"

I have admired and respected Buckley and his "National Review", but I have often wondered why it was never mentioned publicly by the Communists to have been all really affecting anti-communist activity. e. g. Joe McCarthy, William Buckley, Whitaker Chambers, Martin Dies, Robert Taft, Robert Welch, etc.

-2- February 4, 1962

It begins to dawn on us that the Communists realize that "National Review" is no anti-communist to their control of the United States, but the John Birch Society (particularly with Robert Welch as its head) is a real threat to them.

Anyone realizes that a hundred thousand, or so, anti-communists across the country - showing "Operation Abolition" - inspiring voters to write Senators about "Falselight", etc., publishing the Warren Court; etc. - with some centralized systematic leadership, COULD STOP COMMUNISM IN U.S.A.

Anyone realizes also that even an excellent journal, like "National Review", will be used largely by pundits, intellectuals, etc. in large cities, who will continue their effortless assault more to discussion with like-minded people who will (by habit) tend to play into the hands of Comm organizations like F.P.A., etc. than to actual individual voter action.

AFTER the McCarthy's, the Dies's, the Welch's, the Hall's, et al are disposed of - it will be able to play the game to keep "National Review" in line.

I hope the Council members of the Society will have understanding enough to realize that this attack on Mr. Welch

Mr. Koch -3- February 4, 1962

is largely a case of "Let's You and His Fight".

Very sincerely,
S. C. Lyons
S. C. Lyons

cc: Mr. A. G. Reinhardt
Mr. Tom Anderson
Mr. Robert Welch

02/13/62 = Robert Welch *"To The Members Of Our Council And The Seven or Eight Friends Regularly Invited to COUNCIL Meetings"*: "We have no intention of fighting back against the present widespread, and carefully coordinated, attacks on us from the Right. The Communists, with approximately three percent of a population, take over one nation after another and impose the brutal tyranny of that three percent on the other ninety-seven percent. Obviously, they could not do this without beguiling good anti-Communists into carrying the ball, and disparaging or destroying other anti-Communists, for them. We certainly do not wish to help the Communists in this purpose. And so, to the constant barrage of questions from AP, UPI, and others we have answered simply 'No Comment', and we intend to continue doing so."

With respect to the impact which all the critics had on the JBS, Welch claims on page 2 of this document that "in the past nine days -- since I left for California and while the storm was at its worst -- we have received one resignation due to all of the criticism, five resignations from members in Texas (all of them in one chapter) who want to put their full time and energy into working for General Walker, and no more."

These comments by Welch are significant for several reasons:

- (1) First, it establishes yet again, that what Welch and the JBS have always described as the "smear attack" against the JBS was not just a left-wing phenomenon. Very prominent conservatives also took major exception to the viewpoints expressed by Welch and the JBS.
- (2) Second, Welch's comment regarding how Communists "beguile good anti-Communists" into "disparaging or destroying other anti-Communists for them" is an argument that easily could apply to the Birch Society itself. In fact, one of the most frequent themes expressed in letters addressed to J. Edgar Hoover from concerned citizens around the country was to inquire whether or not the FBI considered the JBS to be a genuine patriotic anti-Communist organization. Many letter-writers expressed the sentiment that perhaps the JBS was a Communist-front organization whose purpose was to confuse, attack, and demoralize legitimate anti-Communist forces in the U.S.
- (3) Third, Welch's rejection of ALL criticisms directed toward himself and the JBS is a perfect circular argument. His formula provides a permanent flawless intellectual escape hatch from ever acknowledging error. Every adverse comment or adverse development is always characterized as part of a plot by Communists to destroy both him and the JBS.

Welch also predicted that Richard Nixon "is in serious trouble. He may lose the nomination for the California governorship to Joe Shell. If he wins the nomination there is even more chance that he will lose the election to Pat Brown. In either case his political career would be over." Nixon went on to win the nomination over Shell with 65% of the Republican vote. He did lose to Pat Brown (by only 5%) but his political career certainly was not over -- since a few years later he became President of the United States!

03/10/62 = T. Coleman Andrews announced his resignation at the JBS Council meeting in Chicago. However, by letter to Robert Welch dated 3/29/62, he withdrew the resignation: "After further consideration given in response to your request and that of other members of the Council, I have decided to withdraw my resignation...I agree, however, that more than one question of principle is involved, particularly that the resignation of anyone from the Council at this time would be incorrectly construed by the critics of yourself and the Council and the public would be unaware of what the true

reasons might be. As everyone well knows, I don't think the John Birch Society has anything to apologize for to anyone. On the contrary, I feel that we have everything to be proud of. The reason we have come under attack is that we have been effective."

It appears that Andrews decided to resign from the Council on at least three occasions but he always changed his mind. A March 16, 1962 letter to Andrews from fellow Council member M.T. Phelps states that the reason why Andrews had tendered his resignation from the Council was related to Robert Welch's statements and conclusions in his "private letter", *The Politician*.

Phelps told Andrews: "Let us assume that the conclusion reached was unreasonable and wholly unjustified. As we all know it was an opinion expressed before the John Birch Society was organized and I suspect 90% or more of the membership do not agree with it and even though Mr. Welch is still of the same view, as long as he does not publicize it and in view of the fact that so much depends on the growth of conservatism in the United States, I want to urge you to remain in the organization. Your resignation would weaken the Society very much." JBS Council members A.G. Heinsohn, W.B. McMillan, and Louis Ruthenberg also write Andrews to ask him to reconsider his resignation. McMillan also addresses Andrews' concern over Welch's comments about Eisenhower. "We who were at Indianapolis know full well that Bob's statement with respect to Eisenhower was never accepted by those present and was never a part of The John Birch Society by specific action at that time, and I think it was highly unfortunate that he made the I felt somewhat uncalled for statement the other day on the same subject, but again, I certainly don't expect everybody to agree with every conclusion I have personally reached when someone else with the same set of facts come to a different conclusion, and that is about what this situation amounts to."

03/13/62 =After the conservative magazine, *National Review*, published its highly critical article about Robert Welch and the Birch Society (see 2/13/62 entry above), JBS National Council member A.G. Heinsohn Jr. wrote a sarcastic letter to *National Review* editor, William F. Buckley, Jr. -- copied below.

March 13, 1962

Mr. William F. Buckley, Jr., Editor
National Review
250 E. 57th Street
New York, New York

Dear Sir:

LITTLE BOY BLUE

So, Little Boy Blue could no longer restrain his ego-maniacal impulses. He's decided to advise me about the "private letter" Robert Welch and those members of the John Birch Society who refuse to make the Society to sell him.

The conspiratorial aspect of the Communist threat is lowered by Little Boy Blue. But it was not thus treated by Senator Joe McCarthy. Nor by the House Committee in 1950, who said:

"The Soviet International organization has carried on a successful and important penetration of the United States government and this penetration has not been fully exposed. This penetration has extended from the lower grades to top-level policy and operating positions in our government. . . . Policies and programs and those of members of this Soviet conspiracy are still in effect which our government and constitute a continuing menace to our national security."

Now by Attorney-General Kennedy who told us last September:

"Communist espionage here in this Country is more active now than it has ever been."

Now by F.B.I. Director J. Edgar Hoover, in these words:

"No doubt lightly the existence of the subversive threat in the United States is so deliberately swept under the rug. In some quarters we are surely doing that."

Now, Little Boy Blue tries to apply the conservatism with the divide and conquer strategy of the Communists.

Oh, say that such treatment and stupidity is disgusting to an old man who has witnessed the communist-related National Labor Relations Board to the floor when Little Boy Blue was pumped in his country in 1948 in a referendum.

However, this message closed with a cost-saving suggestion. Remove my name from your mailing list. Then when you hear about it with your little tin can receiver for communications, have yourself some postage. Don't tell me to extract another thousand years from me, as I have no appetite for transposition, juvenile spiritism.

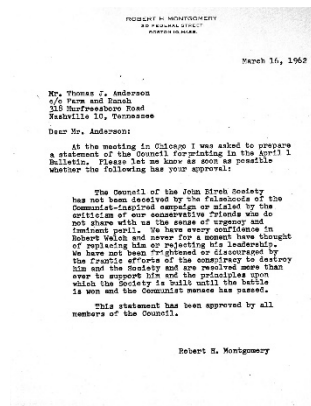
Sincerely yours,
A. G. Heinsohn, Jr.

134, 25/62
257 THREE
Cincinnati

03/16/62 = After a March 10, 1962 JBS National Council meeting, Council member Robert H. Montgomery sends Tom Anderson a letter containing a proposed Council statement expressing support for Welch which was to be published in the April 1962 *JBS Bulletin*. In its customary fashion -- all

[illegible]

criticism of Welch or the JBS is characterized as "*Communist-inspired*".



04/02/62 = Council member Fred Koch letter to Robert Welch: "Dear Bob: I heartily concur with Tom Anderson's letter in which he suggests putting out the truth about the John Birch Society. We have been on the defensive too long." Koch referred to a 3/30/62 letter by Anderson to Robert Welch in which he stated: "For a long while I have had the feeling that the John Birch Society should publish a paperback book to give the truth about the John Birch Society...Several Council members could collaborate on the book--or maybe it would be a good idea to have Council member write one chapter...The suggested title would be something like '*The Truth About The John Birch Society*'...We have been too much on the defensive. Too long have we sat by and allowed the opposition to publish their lies and misinformation, unchallenged."

05/07/62 = Welch "*To All Members Of The COUNCIL*" - announces that the following individuals were being invited to attend the next Council meeting at Union League Club in Chicago on Saturday, May 26, 1962: Capt. Edward V. Rickenbacker, Ezra Taft Benson, Strom Thurmond, and H.L. Hunt.

05/17/62 = JBS National Council member Paul H. (Tex) Talbert (Beverly Hills CA) sends a letter to Cola G. Parker of Neenah WI with carbon copies to all other JBS National Council members concerning the forthcoming publication of a Report on the Birch Society resulting from a 2-year investigation by the California Senate Factfinding Subcommittee on Un-American Activities. This Subcommittee conducted the only official governmental investigation ever made of the JBS. The Report was ultimately released in 1963 with an update in the Subcommittee's 1965 Report.

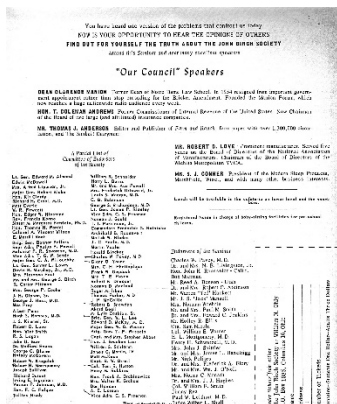
The Report was completed April 1, 1962. However, that same week, one Subcommittee member died and another was hospitalized. The California Senate adjourned before the Subcommittee (including one new member) could vote on authorizing release of the Report. However, Paul Talbert obtained an advance copy. He told Cola Parker that....

"I am convinced the report is good and too favorable to the John Birch Society. The natural conclusion is that it was too '*hot*' to handle for an election year and too devastating against Governor Brown and Attorney General Mosk. I talked to the Chief Investigator for the Committee yesterday for an hour and am to meet him in Los Angeles next week for further consultation. Confidentially, I can state that he is 100% on our side." [The Chief Investigator was Richard E. Combs.]

05/28/62 = Welch "To All Members Of The COUNCIL": "As recommended by some members of the COUNCIL at our meeting on Saturday, May 26, a special bank account has been opened through which contributions may be made for The John Birch Society without being made to the Society. Whenever or wherever this arrangement may be helpful, checks should be made out simply to Escrow Account No. 78, and mailed either directly to us, or to the County Bank and Trust Company, 515 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge 39, Massachusetts. In either case the money will immediately be made available for our use but the name of the Society will not appear on the check, in the endorsement, or anywhere in the transaction so far as the donor is concerned."

06/03/62 = Five members of the JBS National Council [Robert H. Montgomery, Thomas J. Anderson, Stillwell J. Conner, Revilo P. Oliver, and Slobodan M. Draskovich] comprise a panel entitled "*Our Council Speaks*" to recruit new JBS members and address criticisms of the JBS. The flyer advertising their 6/30/62 appearance in the Flick-Reedy Auditorium (Bensenville IL) describes their purpose as: "This will be the first in a series of educational efforts to carry our story to more and more of the American people. All members are urged to attend and to invite their concerned friends to attend...Let them hear about the John Birch Society AS IT REALLY IS from the lips of five of its distinguished and able Council members." Significantly, within four years, 2 of the 5 will resign from the Society while making extremely critical remarks about Robert Welch.

A subsequent "*Our Council Speaks*" event in Columbus, OH in January 1963 was comprised of Clarence E. Manion, T. Coleman Andrews, Robert D. Love, Thomas J. Anderson, and Stillwell J. Conner. Below is copied a JBS flyer about the event which also lists JBS endorsers around the country. Council members who participated in the "*Our Council Speaks*" programs, were paid a \$300 honorarium according to a 2/14/63 letter by Robert Welch to Crawley F. Joyner III of Richmond VA.



06/12/62 = Cong. John Rousselot enters into the *Congressional Record* a document entitled "*Beliefs and Principles of the John Birch Society*".

06/25/62 = Former JBS National Council member, Dr. Granville Knight, sends Robert Welch a letter which will give readers an understanding of the underlying mindset by which Birchers interpreted the world in 1962 --- which is remarkably similar in tone and substance to political discourse in year 2011:

"I cannot help but wonder at times as to how effective any person or organization can be without efforts to expose the roots of the conspiracy. You have certainly been vindicated as far as stressing internal subversion is concerned by what has happened in the past year. We obviously have a Fabian Socialist in the White House and he is surrounded by his cohorts...It is quite possible that the international bankers are playing a part in the recent stock market debacle...It seems to me tht we have to deal with Fabian Socialists, the Communists, the international bankers, the illuminati and cooperatives. There seems to be a struggle between these groups for world domination and whether or not they are guided by a small group using all the rest is conjectural. As long as we are at the mercy of the Federal Reserve System and those who control it, together with the slavery of the graduated income tax, there seems to be little hope of making real progress."

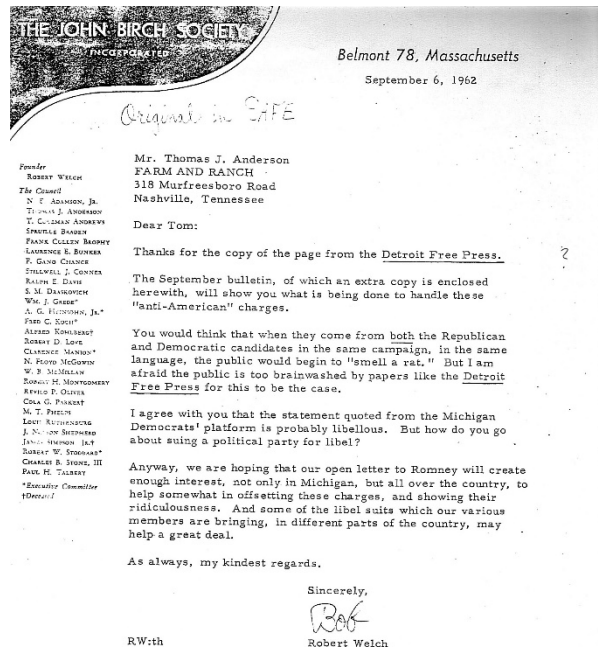
07/03/62 = Robert Welch letter to Sen. James Eastland (MS) informs the Senator that the Birch Society has spent several thousand dollars to include with its July 1962 *JBS Bulletin*, a copy of Eastland's speech entitled "*Is The Supreme Court Pro-Communist?*" which originally was published by The Patrick Henry Group in Richmond VA.

Welch tells Eastland that: "...I agreed one hundred percent" with the statements made by Eastland in the pamphlet. Welch closes his letter with: "So let's hope that this increased distribution---to the very people throughout the country who will be most interested in reading your speech---will bring your great effort an added effectiveness which will make this cost seem well worthwhile. With admiration for both your patriotism and your courage, and with all good wishes, I am, Sincerely, Robert Welch."

JBS praise of, and support for, segregationist politicians like Eastland is one reason why the Birch Society has often been characterized as racist. Significantly, Sen. Eastland sought and received Klan support for his re-election campaigns and according to principals involved, he "*pulled strings*" to prevent prosecution of Klan members who murdered civil rights workers in 1964. Significantly, this information came from an FBI informant inside the White Knights of the Ku Klux Klan of Mississippi -- the most violent Klan in our country. That FBI informant (Rev. Delmar Dennis) was a JBS member who remained a segregationist after testifying against Klan members. Dennis subsequently was hired by the JBS as a Coordinator and speaker.

08/14/62 = Tom Anderson sends letter to Robert Welch advising him that as a favor to Ezra Taft Benson he is going to speak under the auspices of All-American Society (founded by former FBI Special Agent and JBS endorser W. Cleon Skousen) in Salt Lake City on September 6th. According to Anderson: "One of the main purposes of this meeting is to help Reed Benson's candidacy for the Congress."

09/06/62 = Criticisms of Welch and the JBS from prominent conservatives around the country were frequent by 1962. In a 9/6/62 letter to Tom Anderson, Welch expresses his frustration over recent comments made by then-Governor George Romney of Michigan:



9/30/62 = At 6:30 am on this date, Ashland F. Burchwell was arrested in Dallas TX by local police for speeding. Upon searching his vehicle, police discovered a large cache of arms and ammunition---including 1000 rounds of .22 caliber ammunition, 2000 rounds of .30-06 rifle ammunition, and a .357 magnum pistol, and an Army rifle.

Burchwell explained to police that he was on his way to Mississippi to aid Governor Ross Barnett's anti-integration position with respect to the University of Mississippi. Dallas police determined that Burchwell worked as a secretary for JBS member, Major Gen. Edwin A. Walker, who was also in Mississippi to protest integration of Old Miss. Burchwell served in Walker's U.S. Army Division in Germany before Walker was relieved of his command.

The Dallas Police Criminal Intelligence Section sent a report to their local Army Intelligence office which stated that they also discovered in Burchwell's car, a small cardboard file box plus 5x8 index cards which listed names, addresses, and phone numbers plus dues payments and codes pertaining to arms, ammunition, clothing, and supplies for what appeared to be a guerrilla force. Many of the people listed were JBS members or JBS endorsers

such as: Dan Smoot, Joseph Grinnan (JBS Coordinator in Dallas), Dr. Medford Evans, Robert E. Hatfield, Robert A. Surrey, Bill Smith (JBS Coordinator), Mrs. Charles Powell.

10/8/62 = Robert Welch memo "*To All Members Of Our COUNCIL*" discusses the controversy over JBS member, General Edwin A. Walker:

"We have been flooded with letters, telegrams and long distance calls from all over the United States, many of them demanding my individual attention...Roughly two-thirds of these communications are from members -- both influential members and plain hardworking patriots -- who think we have '*let Walker down*'. These range all the way from those who are mildly disappointed and critical; through those who say that if we are not going to use The John Birch Society organization to back General Walker then they are going to form separate organizations of their own for that specific purpose; to those who insisted the time had come to get out the guns, march to Springfield, Missouri, and rally behind a great patriotic General who was determined to save his country while there was still time." ...

"But from the point of view of the Society, there are still other factors involved, some of which we do not think it wise to discuss specifically even here. For one thing, General Walker has not only been guided by the advice of Medford Evans and, increasingly of late and especially with regard to the Mississippi situation, of Evetts Haley, and not only does that advice seem to many of us to leave much to be desired in the matter of soundness; but much more recently Walker has also been listening to advice from another source, and refusing to pay any attention to those who have tried to caution him about this source, and it is one which we do not trust at all, even as to good intentions. There is, in our opinion, danger of some very serious embarrassment to a lot of good Conservatives and even to the Conservative cause in general, if Walker continues to listen to that advice, or takes any overt actions based on it, or even merely gets himself definitely associated with this source. And since General Walker is noted for his obstinacy, we have to be as careful as we can not to let ourselves be dragged into this association in any way, even at the expense of having two thirds of our members angry and many of them even resigning or threatening to do so because we are not giving Walker '*the support which he should have*.' And the report that we have 'abandoned' Walker is now being deliberately spread all over New York City, and among the Conservatives in many other places, to hurt the Society."

NOTE: The "*source*" whom Welch refers to as exerting a noxious influence upon Walker is a reference to Walker's involvement with the anti-semitic crowd which, at that time, owned *American Mercury* [AM] magazine [first, Russell Maguire and then Gerald Winrod's organization, Defenders of the Christian Faith and later Willis Carto's Legion for the Survival of Freedom. In September 1962, the *AM* was sold to the Defenders of the Christian Faith and Walker was one of the purchasers. He also became Military Editor for the *AM*.]

Item #4 in this Welch report discusses "*The New Form of Attacks On The Society*. Having tried many other methods, the Left has now embarked on a whole series of separate but closely related efforts to weaken and destroy the Society. And our enemies are certainly and subtly pouring on these efforts, everywhere...Another form of the attack is in the extensive, emphatic, and almost violent spread of anti-Semitic theories. In many areas, our members are having it preached directly to them, and indirectly to them through other organizations and in other ways where the direct approach is not practicable...This movement is now so intensive and extensive that there is no doubt in my mind about its being part of a coordinated and carefully

planned overall drive to destroy the Society. And because the ordinary American Jews do not realize that they are being just as misled and falsely represented by Communists in their ranks and their leadership, as our Methodists, for instance, by left-wingers high up in the hierarchy of their denomination, or even Catholics by a comparatively few but still very powerful and influential extreme left-wingers in strategic spots even in their clergy, it is fairly easy to inflame a lot of otherwise good Americans into believing the extremist nonsense, putting all of their efforts behind this terribly gross over-simplification of the problem, and giving up all other effort, organized or otherwise, for fighting the Communists. This drive is right now making a lot of damaging headway."

Item #5 by Welch: "Parallel to the above, as a problem increasingly to be faced, is the use by the Communists of agents provocateurs with regard to overt acts, rather than just ideological persuasion to extremism. We have already seen some of this, as in the case of the bombs which were exploded in the homes of the ministers in California--who were speaking on radio programs, at the very time, against '*extremists*' like The John Birch Society -- in such a manner as to do as little damage as possible to the homes, but as much damage as possible to the Society. This is standard Communist technique--which DeGaulle used brazenly and repeatedly, for instance, to discredit the OAS and other anti-Communists in both Algeria and France itself -- and of which we shall be seeing increasing samples in this country, aimed at anti-Communists in general but some of them at the John Birch Society in particular."

10/27/62 = The JBS issued a press release announcing that Reed A. Benson (eldest son of Ezra Taft Benson) "*was appointed today as the Utah Coordinator of the John Birch Society...His father, Ezra Taft Benson, on being questioned regarding his son's decision, stated: 'I have known of my son Reed's interest in The John Birch Society, which he has been studying for several months. I have also read the Blue Book and other basic materials of the Society and have met the leaders and several prominent Americans who are members. The organization is, I am convinced, the most effective non-church organization in our fight against creeping socialism and godless Communism. I admire Reed's courage and applaud his decision.'*"

12/11/62 = George S. Birch, the father of John Birch, writes to the Editor of the *Atlanta Constitution* newspaper (Eugene Patterson) because of comments in a published article about the circumstances of his son's death. Mr. and Mrs. George Birch were life members of the Birch Society. George also wrote letters to J. Edgar Hoover protesting similar comments about his son made by Gordon D. Hall--a lecturer on extremists. Copied below is George Birch's letter to Patterson and then comments made by Gen. Albert C. Wedemeyer concerning the circumstances surrounding the death of John Birch.

C
O
P
Y

Birchwood
Route #1
Macon, Ga.

December 11, 1962

Mr. Eugene Patterson
Editor, The Atlanta Constitution
Atlanta, Ga.

Dear Sir:

With reference to the column by Marvin Wall on page 4 of the December 9th issue of The Atlanta Constitution, I question the veracity of certain statements.

As the father of John Birch, I understand that I am entitled to know the ultimate source and proof of the statements in question, enumerated below:

- (1) "...he was sent to Suichow to check on Japanese strength there."
- (2) "When he got there, Birch found the Japanese surrounded by Chinese Communists."
- (3) "Going beyond his orders, Birch sought to arrange a surrender of the Japanese."
- (4) "Then he slugged a guard..."
- (5) "He...was no longer capable of thinking rationally."

I expect immediate acknowledgment (stamped, self-addressed envelope enclosed), and either proof or public retraction, giving equal space and prominence, within fifteen days.

Yours very truly,

George S. Birch

cc to General A. C. Wedemeyer
General Omaria Stone III
Honorable Richard A. Russell
Jon Anderson, Farm and Ranch
Patton Lewis, Jr.
Clarence Mason
Dan Shost
Huan Swantz
Asatillo Daily News
"Roy" Watson, KJW
Berger News Herald
Military truth
and others

Gen. Albert C. Wedemeyer (*Washington DC Evening Star*, 4/11/61, pA5, "Wedemeyer Hits Welch's Birch Story"):

"General Albert C. Wedemeyer has refused to join the John Birch Society and has accused its founder, Robert H.W. Welch Jr., of distorting the circumstances surrounding the death of the Society's namesake, according to a North American Newspaper Alliance report.

As Mr. Welch tells the story, John Birch, a missionary turned Army intelligence officer, was killed by Chinese Communists 10 days after the end of World War II. He has described him as *'the first casualty'* of the cold war and has charged the Pentagon with attempting to suppress the facts of the Birch case at the behest of hidden pro-Soviet forces.

'That just isn't true' says Gen. Wedemeyer, who was the American commander in China at the time of Birch's death. *'I just can't believe that the case was hushed up. I had sent a full report to Washington at the time. As I recall, I reported that the unfortunate episode had been provoked by Birch's arrogant behavior toward a Communist patrol.'*

"General Wedemeyer said Birch 'was only one of a number of brave courageous Americans who were killed in one incident or another about the same time. Why Birch should have been singled out for special attention is beyond my comprehension.' "

General Albert Wedemeyer (Newsweek, 12/4/61)

"I knew John Birch, as a captain in China, when I was out there during the war. Birch was one of a number of men who participated in operations in China, parachuted behind enemy lines. He provoked the attack on himself; he was arrogant. I warned Welch not to make a hero of Birch. That's why I quit as an adviser. I think Welch is a dedicated, fine American but he lacks good judgment."

12/26/62 = National Council member William J. Grede sends letters to other Council members announcing the formation of a National Finance Committee for the JBS, of which he is Chairman. Grede observed: *"In the four years since the Society was founded it has, we believe, already become the strongest and most effective anti-Communist group in the United States, and certainly the one which the Communist themselves fear the most."* The initial Finance Committee memo is copied below:

The National Finance Committee
of the JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY
December 26, 1962

To A Reader, Old, Old Members And Friends:

At a recent meeting of the COUNCIL of the Society, held in New York on the South anniversary of the founding of the Society, we reviewed our growth and progress during those last years.

It was the consensus of all of those present that the John Birch Society, simply by continuing society its core policies, principles, and procedures, has grown into a body of well-defined ideas, strategy, experience, and individuals to stop the Communists in our country, and to establish a free world Communist conspiracy. And that the race is simply one with time, as to whether or not this road is possible can be judged enough.

There are just two basic limitations to that growth. One is finding members of sufficient high caliber and character to all still avoid and in all instances of the Society's activities. The other is the money to finance such activities as first we each manage; that is, those not involved. In this connection, conduct some early reviews of millions of your money and time, your Government is constantly spending to push forward the activities from behind which Communists dominate. Then consider the comparatively few millions per year needed by The John Birch Society to offer effective opposition to this system, because, basically, a large majority of the American people are still content in our role to whatever extent they understand the issue and the danger. Until these circumstances it seems clear that our money should be available. But it will not be available unless the people to whom this committee now exists become well-informed and active about the current situation. As other good Americans become aware of our progress and also realize some of the threat, many financial notes can be obtained to give financial support. And it is simply to emphasize the need for action in thinking and in action that we are sending this copy of a story worth the reading.

Some of you have been very successful in getting for yourself help from the House Office of the Society entire this year. All of this help was greatly appreciated. And we have no intention of being either aggressive or competing with this year. But since that time the Society has added to its staff each able man we need because of this, our time, our effort, our financial support. In January, Margaret J. Kunkel, and others, and have also given their own money to help in the publishing division. So we are not at all short of money.

1963

1/17/63 = Thomas J. Davis, a JBS Major Coordinator headquartered in Stamford CT, sent a 7-page single-spaced typed letter to Robert Welch to explain why he and other JBS officials had terminated the employment of Richmond VA JBS Coordinator George S. Petley because "he was not suited for this work".

Petley had replaced Bryton Barron in June 1961. Barron resigned from the JBS after making very derogatory statements about Robert Welch (see my former entry regarding the Barron matter.) The controversy over Petley's dismissal resulted in several letters to/from Robert Welch and National Council member T. Coleman Andrews, a friend of Petley, along with letters from many JBS members who were displeased with the manner in which Petley was treated.

Davis met with local chapter members and his letter to Welch reported that: "The members were quite concerned over the manner in which George was dropped, and charged that we were ruthless in our handling of the matter; that George was an excellent leader, and that his territory was very difficult...At that meeting, I stayed with our official version of the reason for his release, namely, that we could not maintain Coordinators who did not sufficiently build the membership of the Society in their area." Attached to the Davis letter to Welch was a detailed report regarding Petley's deficiencies. Among the problems, according to Davis, is that Petley appointed a Section Leader in one Virginia city who not only was totally unsuited for that position but "much more serious, he was anti-Semitic and made these attitudes known to the membership, and passed out quantities of material of which the Society totally disapproved."

A subsequent report by Thomas N. Hill and William E. Dunham mentions that when Petley started in 1961, the JBS had 15 chapters in Virginia and when he was terminated (in 1963) there were 19. Petley started four chapters in Maryland.

In a January 23, 1963 letter to Petley, Robert Welch stated:

"It seemed to me, as I first began to be worried about the Virginia situation many months ago -- and after having had such high hopes for what you could accomplish when we first sent you there -- that the basic trouble was immaturity of judgment. One of the earliest indications of this was your recommendation, when you thought you and your efforts were being hurt by rumors that you were Jewish, that we actually make a statement in the *Bulletin* of the Society, for the whole United States, that Mr. George Petley, our Virginia Coordinator, was not Jewish."

03/14/63 = T. Coleman Andrews sends a letter to Robert Welch to announce, yet again, that he plans to resign from the JBS National Council. On April 4, 1963, Welch replies and tells Andrews "we simply could not afford to lose you as a member of our COUNCIL -- especially at the present time, when we are just beginning to make such remarkable headway again..." On April 11, Andrews replies by agreeing to wait until the next Council meeting when he can "discuss the matter with other members of the Council and reach a decision." He subsequently decides to remain on the Council.

06/18/63 = Robert Welch "*To All Coordinators, Section Leaders and Chapter Leaders*": "Although the Supreme Court decision, forbidding the reading of the Bible or the recital of the Lord's Prayer in the schools, had been anticipated, it still seems almost unbelievable. It is obvious that the Warren-led Court intends, step by step, to declare the whole Constitution of the United States unconstitutional. Two of the most important of all the aims of the Communists are: (1) To promote strife and bitterness, and civil war wherever possible, over racial and religious differences; and (2) to destroy all religion (because the Communists simply cannot permit any loyalty to God, man, or nation, but only to themselves.) For several years it has been evident, and each month it becomes more evident, that the U.S. Supreme Court under Chief Justice Warren is determined to do all it can, as rapidly as it dares, to help the Communists to carry out these aims in our country."

08/01/63 = Robert Welch "*To Members of the COUNCIL*": Welch sends each Council member a suggested letter which he asks them to send to Ezra Taft Benson, Capt. Eddie Rickenbacker, Sen. Strom Thurmond and Charles Edison – in order to encourage each of the 4 men to accept Welch's invitation to become members of the JBS National Council.

08/12/63 = Chicago National Council member Slobodan M. Draskovich sends a letter and 22-page attachment (entitled "*Let Us Face The Truth*") to Robert Welch and all National Council members. The cover letter to Welch and several pages of the attachment are copied below. Draskovich's argument is that the JBS educational program is not commensurate to the conspiratorial problem confronted by our country and, consequently, is doomed to failure.

C O U N C I L
MEMBERSHIP IN SUBSIDIARIES
OF THE J.B.S.
OFFICE OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL

August 12, 1963

Mr. Robert Welch
Belmont 70, Massachusetts

Dear Bob:


The picnic on Washington, scheduled for August 18, which is the highlight and very pleasant backdrop to the year of our centennial in this country after 1776, is the national climax of a series of events which the immediate community had already planned, prepared and executed in the last few years. Combined with the last-man standing and Moscow, Russia's and Cuba's Eastern-orientation with themselves, they make the situation for survival of the U. S. appear almost bleak.

I trust that the J.B.S. is doing very little. It can do more and must do more. What matters is not so be better than the others, but to keep America and America's Constitution.

But big idea has been lately, or our Council meetings and in our Bulletin, that if we just continue to do more of the same, we are going to sink it with that promise I constantly disprove. To believe people to rise and to build local understanding is even better. But it is not enough. What we must have now is that could show us where and when understanding, to act and to give and receive, can rise up to defend this country and fight for victory. We cannot have the best of our country without the spirit of the man who will use it to his full. The people need the J.B.S. at the community level to do this even something about the state of the situation.

For this reason I have prepared the enclosed paper. Please read it and let us discuss it at our next Council meeting in September. Have you any, who would actually, in our own country, make us could have a special election on Friday night or Sunday morning.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,


cc: To all members of the J.B.S. Council

DAY 28 PAGE TWO
- The 28th Day To Present -

In the meantime when we appeared in the state of 280 soldiers throughout the United States we were very being asked in some cases with an increasing sense of urgency and interest, why?

1. What is the situation of America, is it going rapidly down or is the trend of direction being successfully opposed with a reversal in which we were sure that it is true; do we still have a chance are we not lost beyond hope, etc?

2. How is the 280 doing? Is it gaining in strength and influence? Is it through some outside aid coming for the movement, are the masses in America becoming more and more America regarding its responsibilities?

While leaders of the 280 should want, for obvious reasons, to attempt to answer these two questions (or groups or questions) publicly or even before smaller groups of leaders, it is imperative - for the 280 to do it in the way in the example of the movement, it is to try to do it in its own way and in the communication of the masses and the leaders people - thus the problems contained in these two questions be more openly, accepted openly and accepted honestly.

The Situation

There is no need to indulge in lengthy consideration of the situation as far as it is related by the policies of the present administration. Everyone knows that it is a disaster and that many more years ago, when the day was not needed.

- (1) Intellectual movement and politics have been strongly discouraged;
- (2) Intellectual movement and politics have been more boldly and openly displayed;
- (3) Threat, coercion and moral discipline in the old order, leading to civil war, are being actively by management and practice;
- (4) Transition to a faster changing our thought and military policies has been led to bring the future, and more honestly than anything would have seemed at only a few years ago.

- 1 -

- 2 -

The Situation of the 280

In all of this, the 280 was found, by its progress, by its position, by its political action, by the fact it has been and the hope it has achieved, to respond by fighting the many oppressors, by expanding its activities, by being better, more aggressive, more militant, and more radical and more thorough of decision policies, by moving the situation of the American people and creating hope for a better future of victory in the world, and not, against and against the masses of America.

From its inception, the 280 has presented itself, as opposed to all other kind of opposition to the masses, it has provided discipline, the army, it has led to fight it, and it refused leadership to others to join, in order to achieve the actual effort and efficiency in fighting and destroying the oppressor and its oppressors.

And because the American people were, who are not only not knowing about communism, but are unwillingly repeated statement that we "have business all the way", i.e. that we were not interested in "leading little people", we could do all the time everything to destroy the communist conspiracy for our nation.

However, the 280 must also have to fight, to that this is possible and the 280 is doing this and have been in leadership to provide, we are not fighting better and making the group as an increasing number of individuals, but in the country, we have been and are closer from the anti-communist de facto the decision are more and more being made, Cuba, Russia, C.R., Iran, Berlin, India, (Glasgow), and Romania (Glasgow), we now only the most comprehensive one, Canada, we are now to take just the greatest problem of getting a new peace treaty, but for many from the anti-communist the fact of Canada is being fought, we certainly do not give the "business" that we "have business" and we do not offer the leadership that we are actually leading the American people in their fight to save their country. Apparently all we can look forward

- 3 -

In countries and movements different, not to fight communism, not to save America, but to "fight against the war", and this is not an American concept for anyone. There are thousands and millions of American men and women who are afraid to die for the war and the fight which are done in their heart, but a battle where the spirit is killed and often are hope of victory but just the mass of the war and the war is not the war.

It is to see at all possible that the 280 is really not being as the force in which all Americans can turn for help. In addition, the masses and leadership, leadership, leadership, quickly and/or direction are respect to our cause. But how to say that, under these conditions, there are many men and important fields of action where we offering no action or opposition, there we are being nothing, where we could be very effective, and there we are suffering our opportunities through fear, lack of action and business, or fear and without spirit.

The Situation

How do we fight a war of the masses?

We have presented to a basic plan, in all our work that the 280 and the whole free world are working together by the communist publicly secretly, but not in opposing the communist work-to-the strategy, operations and actions, we have been active in opposition, to fight of our own ideas, initiatives and movements from all parts of the world.

How can leadership and leadership to the fact that we are fighting a situation, that is very clear, infinitely difficult situation disabling, with the most open front: action, should at any moment, any initiative, any action, should which could be seen in y to and potentially only using action of the war.

The situation are using all the resources of the age and all the techniques of action and leadership and leadership, for the fact that of action and action to achieve the victory in a strategically correct action. There can be

not to weaken, to solidify, to develop the qualities of mind and character but to attack them, to denigrate and to push to despair. Any representative we vote for, if still grooved over a long time at least if they know what they are doing and if their attitude are conducive to the objective. And they are. The communists have worked out very carefully their strategy and tactics as we had lead them to the achievement of their ends.

Not so the DMC. Instead of working out a strategy, educating people not only through knowledge but moral inspiration and example, consciously expanding the activities of the DMC to new fields and conditioning this into an increasingly effective activity, we are scattering ourselves in variously promising fields, leaving our energies to clash chaotically, not keeping them as far as possible away from "unintentional".

This is a vast fighting camp, first because it leads to failure. If, under the most trying circumstances we stay today, we keep helping them, we'll be most discouraging and actively encouraging terrorism, without inspiring them because of love, and adding to their fighting terrorism, we are not strengthening the DMC, we weakening it. Because there is a link to the extent of bad men that could be inspired to, without either caring to see or protect the witnesses, or looking their heads in disgust. If the only thing we can do is just to continue helping upon our members had and shared news and evidence of terrorism, terrorism may, unusually and because of the highest power, believe willing that the reason one had will be exposed - they will share or their ends in America.

Exposing the crimes of a criminal is good only to the point where victims of action are offered for stopping him. But if we keep giving information about what the criminal is doing, without taking the necessary steps to stop him, our publicity does the increasing victims of the crime: causes to be a challenge leading to a moral response, and takes into operation of building up the pro-

this image of the criminal, as an irretrievable evil.

What we are doing right now, is that if the moral sense of the present generation of Americans has not been systematically impaired by a number of influences, especially under the New Deal and during World War II, all these other negative influences, the politicians, the press and various social forces have been neutral. The only thing that they do is to keep them from being more and more involved in an even more a proof that we have not only killed in knowledge, but in moral and tactical reaction. So, the situation cannot be changed by bringing this, objective, morally neutral knowledge to the people, but by doing our utmost at the same time, to re-awaken their very natural sense of moral responsibility, patriotism and moral courage. Indeed, the "moralist" approach is in the hands of all and any important town action, private and especially public. The leaders must be used and collected in their thinking and decision-making. But they must appeal not only to the higher part reason of the people, but even make sure to their sense of moral responsibility and conscience. For the last words, but have little social sense and little moral reaction, will never do such. Only occasionally around people have ever been able to do about things in history. Many and important decisions created events. And the task which the DMC has taken upon itself is of the greatest magnitude. America cannot be saved by knowledgeable radicals, but by intelligent, right-minded, and kindhearted Americans.

The second grave mistake is that we have no secret for the enemy. We are not going to make our own family bulletin, which is supposed to be the link between the movement and the masses of the DMC, accessible to everybody, even though it is completely impossible to assume that the enemy has performed our ends. It is like having the headquarters of an army publish all the war plans and make that accessible to the enemy. How can you possibly dream of winning if you keep betraying all your secrets? How can you ever hope

to defeat the enemy if you keep betraying your war plans and actions from the beginning? The very thing is doing that I find, offered in answer, should the commander in chief not be aware that it is so and that he is probably that we are doing.

It is extremely to understand why we do only this against the cause of moral indignation of the American people, and why we are unable, just to give our information but actually avoid giving any responsibility for what the enemy will do with the information with which we supply them, why we have "unintentional" like the plan.

But our leadership seems inspired with a rational urge to please, to be popular, to be acceptable and accepted, and even to conformity to the very basic considerations which Mr. Fols provided and repeated in many an occasion: that cooperative action is built mainly on unity, without compromise and anger, selfish, with responsibility accepted, with "peace as usual".

When the sense of the nation is such that it is going down, do to a state, it is a shame to strive to be acceptable. For we can be acceptable only if we comply with the prevailing forces and trends of U.S. opinion. In contrast, to history the communist world community, is not better, we must remain from knowledge we are certain to be crushed, shattered, or at least completely able to the enemy, to the bourgeoisie, to the capitalists. It is only now that we can become acceptable to the real fighters, to those who are, understood and carry, those who are willing not only to hold opinions and their faces, but also live by their words, believe strongly enough in America to risk its annals with the case determination that the communists are disrupting this country, and are so willing to die, if necessary, to defend the United States and its foundations.

And that leadership is precisely what the DMC has progressively been withdrawing from its members and the American people. Leadership is not only to

... 7 ...

interesting such men people but in talking this clearly, confidently were to
right and what is good, that change of action must be wanted and what course
must be taken not expected to bring a concrete result in action of what
we want that we take it into consideration. Only then will people be interested
in them in the JBS and to live the leadership. Only then can the greatest threat
of women be stopped and changed. But the JBS, unfortunately, is not doing that.
It is not changing the present "American-West America, but it is by omission,
by the conscious stand, by the silence of women not in situations where it
should react, reacting with it." Instead of new, without strength, we are our
strong intention to become present. In a situation where the camp has
deeply infiltrated so not to bring dignity to live in the same women to be
strong, as we women feel weakness as to be actually "strong". This must
change in 1962 women to call together with the enemy's strategy or the
strategy of America. At least it is inadequate and growing acceptance, but no
militant resistance of the men which the enemy has chosen for America. Co-
der show resistance, it does not matter if all women or shall accept the
basic women presence against the JBS, with or without success. Perhaps
there will not new America. The United States of 1962 cannot be saved by the
enemy of 1962, but only by the spirit of 1970.

However, the JBS is dying away from the spirit of 1970 and taking itself
responsible to the US of 1962. Instead of according to the American people
and the whole world to entirely different people as the US since the day that
the President have done, we shall make the JBS and not only in American
positions but of all women rights throughout the world, the JBS is 1962
ing in the approach to the problem of US attention too many measures which are
the collective traits of the present movement from 1962 on steadily before
the enemy, resistance does only the strongest women must, resistance,

Draskovich laments "the lack of strong leadership in the JBS" because the JBS commander-in-chief "is spending a great deal of his time in self-examination, self-analysis, self-explanation, and self-justification."

He then complains about Council meetings "where no room is left for proper criticism and discussion of issues and strategy". Draskovich declares that the JBS is "being weakened by our timidity, our tediousness, by our frightened search for recognition, respectability, and acceptance..." to the point where "the JBS is evidently and progressively failing in its mission. The relationship of forces between the communist conspiracy and the forces of Americanism, which in the months and few first years following the creation of the JBS was turning in our favor, is again turning against us. The knowledge about the communist conspiracy is growing, but the faith in victory, in the imperative need to do our utmost and invest everything we have into the battle, is definitely disappearing. And this is because the JBS promise that it means business all the way has acquired a hollow ring, unrelated to our actual policies. We are not doing our utmost to alarm, to arouse, to infuriate, to inspire, to organize and to lead the American people into the decisive battles toward victory."

Draskovich continues: "The enemy is acting and training all the time and keeping in shape for any coming eventuality. We are not acting and we are not ready for action, we are not keeping in fighting trim for the decisive engagements which are before us. Has our leadership thought about the problems and situations most likely to face us in the immediate future, has it worked out plans and prepared its members to meet the emergencies?"

Among the problems which Draskovich lists as distinct possibilities:

"What do we do if we are exposed to physical violence, to beatings, individual and collective? What do we do if it comes to a racial civil war, fostered and encouraged by the New Frontier? What do we do if we are jailed on whatever ground or without any ground, as General Walker was several months ago? Do we keep \$50,000 bail money ready for every member of the JBS?" ...

"If we had ten, twenty, thirty or more years before us, all of this would not be so urgent. But, as everybody knows, especially in the JBS, very little time remains. We see the enemies' whites of their eyes, but instead of shooting and beating them back and inflicting them an irreparable defeat, we let them infiltrate our ramparts and wreak havoc, while we play Sunday school teachers to the American people. We are having nice, harmless tea parties against the criminals and traitors."

1964

2/9/64 = National Council member Revilo P. Oliver sends a 4-page “*Confidential*” letter to Council member Tom Anderson (copied below) which advocates creation of a Board of Strategy for the JBS. Oliver contends that five National Council members had agreed about the need for such a Board at the recent National Council meeting in Chicago.

Oliver lists 9 reasons why such a Board is necessary. He devotes the most space to discussion of comments made over the name of Robert Welch in a lengthy pamphlet entitled “*The Neutralizers*” which, writes Oliver, was “[seriously diminishing our prestige through demonstrably erroneous or grossly inaccurate statements of fact and highly improbable allegations that we are acting as a cat’s paw for the Defamation League \[Anti-Defamation League of B’nai B’rith\] which is one of the most viciously anti-American criminal gangs in the country and is widely \(and not implausibly\) suspected of being an arm of the Communist Conspiracy](#)”.

This letter is significant for several reasons, chief among them the fact that Oliver did not disguise his obvious anti-semitic sentiments.

The idea of Strategy Committee for the JBS was adopted. The first members were: Tom Anderson, Milorad (aka Dan) Draskovich, Robert Love, Clarence (aka Pat) Manion, and Revilo Oliver. See 3/6/64 entry below for additional information.


4.

... (out) and Dan Risher (Illinois, Wisconsin), and I believe that one of the two, if not both, should be promoted to a post of field supervision.

(3) A Committee on Strategy to be composed of members of the Council and to meet at least once each month, preferably in Chicago, with the Founder, Dan Brunkovich, and the "outside man" to deliberate major strategy for the Society, and to be responsible to the Council for decisions in such matters. It was suggested that for this purpose our present committee be expanded by the inclusion of the following members of the Council, if they are willing to serve: Grede, Stoddard, Matras, Gaur. The size of the Committee will make it unnecessary for each member to attend every meeting.

(4) It is desirable that we associate with us in an executive capacity an eminent retired military or naval officer. His exact functions will depend, of course, on the abilities of the men whom we are able to select.

I believe that these recommendations represent the most feasible way of meeting promptly the Society's ~~press~~ urgent needs.

Sincerely,


Mr. Thomas J. Anderson,
 2151 Belmont Avenue,
 Deshler, Tennessee.

2/17/64 = Robert Welch sends Westbrook Pegler a 17-page single-spaced typed letter in response to Pegler's hostile telegram concerning non-payment for articles of his which were published in the JBS magazine, *American Opinion*. Pegler was to receive \$1000 for one article every month. Welch tells Pegler:

"We stayed by that arrangement through many months, Peg, when each of your articles was simply rehashing the same old bitter personal paragraphs about the Roosevelts and the Kennedys and a few of your other betes noirs -- such as members of the Hearst family -- in rambling and repetitive diatribes. You were using our magazine to give vent to your personal spleen in language and in disorganized sequences which I do not believe any other reputable periodical in America would have published. But we did our best to go along with you patiently, despite the fact that these articles were hurting us more than they would have hurt anybody else, because of the intended tone and purpose of *American Opinion*, and because of its great indebtedness to the loyal support of members of The John Birch Society. In fact, Peg, you were steadily tearing down, in many ways, what I had been years in the building."

In his letter to Pegler, Welch provided a lot of data not generally known about himself and the JBS. Some examples:

- * As of 2/64, the JBS had 150 employees, a payroll of over \$22,000 per week, printing bills from one printer of over \$12,000 per week
- * Welch's book, *May God Forgive Us*, sold 200,000 copies during its first year and his book, *The Life of John Birch* sold 35,000 copies during its first year.
- * Welch believed that conservative author/columnist Eugene Lyons "had clearly been responsible for publication of the article by Col. Kintner, in *The Reader's Digest* which -- whatever its title and ostensible theme -- seemed to me to have been written and published primarily for the damage it could to the Society and myself." [Welch refers to Kintner's article in the 5/62 issue of *Reader's Digest* entitled "*The Insidious Campaign To Silence Anti-Communists*" which discussed the JBS in negative terms.]
- * As a result of Pegler's attacks upon Eugene Lyons in two articles appearing in *American Opinion* magazine, J.B. Matthews resigned from the masthead of AO.

* Welch claimed that by October 1963, as a consequence of Pegler's vitriolic articles, "we were receiving so much mail from so many of our most influential and most dedicated members of the Society, completely washing their hands of anything further to do with *American Opinion*, that our subscriptions and our newsstand sales...were both dropping off in disturbing fashion. At the very same time, while we were losing money every month on *American Opinion*...we were now suffering even heavier drops in the direct contributions to the Society by these influential and affluent members who had become disgusted or disturbed at the Pegler ramblings. The protests were numerous, and many of them were emphatic. It is my best guess that we lost about ten thousand dollars per month in contributions, for this reason, during the three fall months, October through December."

* The Warren Commission had been appointed "for the obvious and specific purpose of shifting the blame for the assassination onto the 'hatemongers' known as The John Birch Society, and to convince the whole country through a controlled press that we had been and were stirring up hatred which was really responsible for the crime...This deliberate program of the Warren crowd, backed by the full power of the present administration, is an extremely serious matter to tens of thousands of wonderfully patriotic and truly good people in The John Birch Society."

3/6/64 = The JBS Executive Committee received a copy of the Strategy Committee report. One of the recommendations was creation of a 3-person team stationed at JBS HQ in Belmont MA which would approve all major policy decisions involving public relations, *American Opinion* magazine, the *JBS Bulletin*, and JBS finances – thus taking such matters out of the sole control by Robert Welch. The idea was not adopted.

3/11/64 = Eric L. Pridonoff sends out a memo stating that he has become Chairman of the Life Membership Program of the JBS. His memo states that in 1963, the JBS spent \$100,000 for hiring Coordinators and providing them equipment which resulted in a 300% increase in JBS membership in California.

4/64 = Robert Welch asked Council member Tom Anderson to become Southern District Governor for the JBS. Anderson declined the offer by letter dated 4/16/64. He pointed out that he had just returned from a speaking engagement at a District Rotary Convention and "I was told that some people refused to attend my speech because they knew I was a John Bircher. But I did reach many others, who either did not know or did not particularly care. But could I have reached them at all as a paid employee?"

07/64 = The JBS began a recruitment project entitled "*JBS Personal Letter Campaign*". The idea was for members to contact potential supporters by using different types of letters with enclosures which would be coded so that it could be determined which packet was the most effective and productive. One proposed letter enclosed a copy of the JBS reprint "*The Time Has Come*". Another letter enclosed a copy of John Stormer's conspiracy classic 1964 book, *None Dare Call It Treason*. A third letter enclosed a copy of a speech by Ezra Taft Benson.

A final letter enclosed a copy of the published version of Welch's "private letter" entitled *The Politician*. The sample letter for this stated:

"This is the last of the series. I have imposed on your time and your patience in this manner for two important reasons: (1) To emphasize the seriousness with which many thoughtful people now regard the danger to our country from the Communist conspiracy; and (2) to make you aware of the importance of the John Birch Society in the fight against this conspiracy, and of the needs of the Society for greater and more rapid growth. Enclosed with this final letter is another book, *The Politician*. Directly or indirectly, it helps to drive home both points. Read *The Politician* and judge it for yourself. Then judge for yourself the frightening situation, of which only one small part is described by the history in this book. I hope that the result will be a willingness on your part to help us all you can – in what I believe to be the most determined and most effective effort in America to ward off the imminent and tremendous danger to our freedom and our lives."

10/28/64 = JBS Public Relations Director John Rousselot sends Robert Welch a list of newspapers which are publishing a JBS advertising supplement -- and the cost for each paper.

7-1
 October 31, 1964
 Mr. LORETT WILCO
 200-222-1270 (Home)
 Edinburg, Texas
 Dear Sir:
 I enclose herewith two checkbooks to which you will find attached the following statements of account. The first is for the 1964-1965 season and the second is for the 1963-1964 season.

MEMBER	DATE OF RECEIPT	CASH PAID	CASH
Robbie Kunkle	October 25, 1964	\$62.20	\$81.22
Wendell Kunkle	October 25, 1964	\$37.57	\$6.82
Paula May Kunkle	October 25, 1964	\$64.04	\$3.74
✓ Jim Harris	October 25, 1964	\$66.78	\$8.00
Archie Harris	October 25, 1964	\$9.02	\$2.40
Walter Kunkle Blue (Chapman, Texas)	October 25, 1964	\$9.02	\$1.73
Valerie Kunkle (Dallas)	October 25, 1964	\$35.88	\$4.72
Dr. Loretta W. November 1, 1964		\$20.00	\$5.00
John (pending November 1, 1964)		\$89.72	\$1.56
✓ Mrs. J. J. November 1, 1964		\$7.00	\$2.21

Mr. Robert Walsh
October 28, 1964
Page 2

Newspaper	Date of Appearance	Circulation	Cost
Minneapolis Times	November 1, 1964	112,000	\$4,985
Chicago Tribune	November 11, 1964	1,172,559	\$55,000*
Calumet Press Publications	October 29, 1964	92,000	
Los Angeles Times and Los Angeles Herald Examiner	September 27, 1964	2,360,000	\$72,000

*The \$56,000 covered the cost for the Calumet Press and The Chicago Tribune.

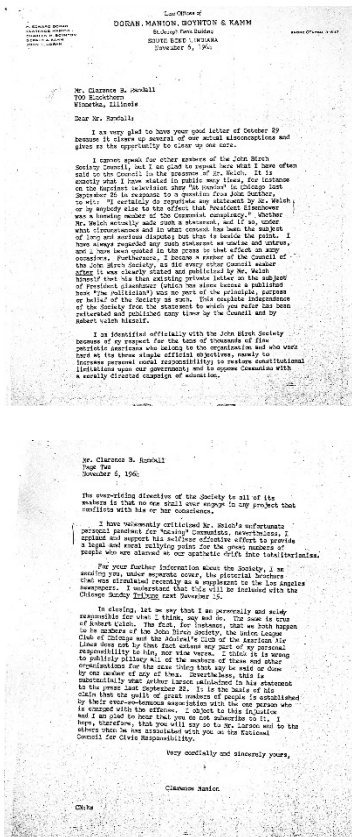
TOTAL	5,596,570	\$81,985
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Kind regards,

John R. Neugebauer
Director - Public Relations
RE:Rog
Chairman of the Board

11/06/64 = JBS National Council member Clarence Manion responds to an inquiry from a friend who asked him if he agreed with Robert Welch's comments about President Eisenhower. In reply, Manion quoted a comment he made about Welch's evaluation of Eisenhower on a Chicago TV program (letter copied below):

"I certainly do repudiate any statement by Mr. Welch or by anybody else to the effect that President Eisenhower was a knowing member of the Communist conspiracy." Manion added: "I have always regarded any such statement as unwise and untrue and I have been quoted in the press to that effect on many occasions."



11/18/64 – 11/23/64 = J. Edgar Hoover holds an unusual 3-hour press conference on 11/18/64. During this conference he answers questions about the just-released Warren Commission Report on the assassination of President Kennedy, plus other subjects.

A reporter asked Hoover about his opinion of Robert Welch. Welch replied that he had no respect for Welch.

FBI Associate Director Clyde Tolson recognizes the impact which Hoover's statement is likely to have -- so he sends Hoover a memo on 11/20 asking for his approval to use a standard reply to the anticipated deluge of inquiries which the FBI expected to receive about the matter. Tolson's memo is copied below. Hoover handwrote "Yes" on Tolson's suggested wording.

Subsequently, both Robert Welch and JBS PR Director John Rousselot wrote to Hoover to inquire if press reports about Hoover's comment concerning Welch were accurate. Copied below is Welch's 11/20/64 letter plus Hoover's 11/23/64 reply.

[Handwritten signature]

[Handwritten mark]

V.

[Handwritten signature]

Jensen _____
Belmont _____
Mohr _____
Wheeler _____
Coffey _____
Colahan _____
Conrad _____
Evans _____
Gale _____
Kane _____
Sullivan _____
Taves _____
Trotter _____
~~Telle. Room~~ _____
Holmes _____
Gandy _____

[REDACTED] b7c

7

"The FBI has not investigated the John Birch Society. Personally, I have had little respect for the head of the John Birch Society since he linked the names of former President Dwight D. Eisenhower, the late John Foster Dulles, and former CIA Director Allen Dulles with communism."

~~yes,~~

b7c [REDACTED]

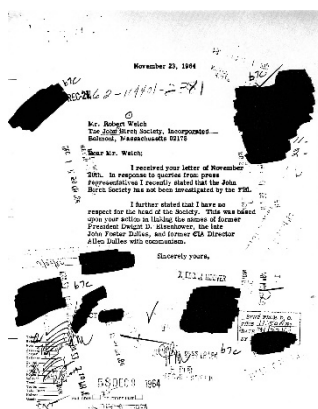
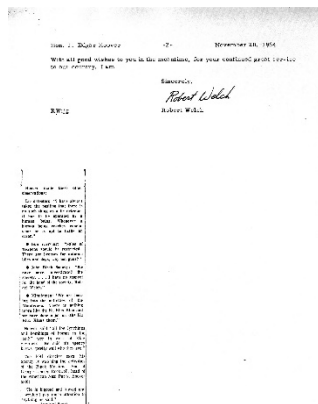
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b7c

[illegible]

Belmont, Massachusetts 02176

Belmont, Massachusetts 02176



JBS FINANCIAL STATEMENT 12/31/64

The following scanned items are copies of the Financial Reports prepared by the Birch Society's CPA firm, Spark, Mann and Company of Boston MA.

The Birch Society was comprised of several corporate entities. The first document is on the JBS itself -- then the second document pertains to Robert Welch, Inc. -- the publishing arm of the Society.

I have additional financial reports which the JBS submitted to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts -- which I will scan and post in the future.

THE JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY, INCORPORATED
ACCOUNTANTS' REPORT
For the Year Ended December 31, 1965

STARR, MAW & COMPANY
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS
125 NASSAU STREET
NEW YORK 38, N.Y.

STARR, MAW & COMPANY
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS
125 NASSAU STREET
NEW YORK 38, N.Y.

March 24, 1966

To the Board of Directors
The John Birch Society, Incorporated
319 Concord Avenue
Belmont, Massachusetts

We have examined the balance sheet of the John Birch Society, Incorporated (a Massachusetts corporation registered under Chapter 10C of the laws of the Commonwealth) as of December 31, 1965 and the related statement of income and expenses and deficits for the year then ended. Our examination was made in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards, and accordingly included such tests of the accounting records and such other auditing procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances. Contributions were validated in part by means of literature which was made available by the Society to interested parties, and the collections of local chapter membership dues are reflected only to the extent that such collections have been received by the Society's main office; accordingly, it was impracticable for us to extend our examination of contributions and membership dues received beyond accounting for amounts so reported by the main office.

In our opinion, the accompanying balance sheet and related statement of income and expenses and deficits present fairly the financial position of

The John Birch Society, Incorporated as December 31, 1965, and the results of its operations for the year then ended, in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles applied on a basis consistent with that of the preceding year.

Starr, Maw & Company

THE JOHN KIRCH COMPANY, INCORPORATED	
STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENSES AND DEFICIT	
For the Year Ended December 31, 1964	
INCOME	
Advertising fees	\$96,865.35
Contributions, etc.	875,530.34
Fees of publications, etc.	165,075.03
Advertising services fees	59,341.40
Residual net revenues	3,003.68
Interest - Corporation, Plasmal, Inc.	13,510.75
Interest income	1,621.34
TOTAL INCOME	\$1,656,517.89
EXPENSES	
Salaries	75,630.40
Payroll taxes	59,719.80
Contributions - Local and expenses	864,076.98
Franchise	35,846.37
Printing and publications	303,181.00
Rent and office supplies	\$1,341.52
Robert Welch, Inc. (net)	2,020.00
Other	28,181.36
Postage	70,166.43
Telephone and office supplies	11,137.50
Life insurance	1,076.57
Depreciation	6,894.34
Telephone and telegrams	10,442.27
Printing and publications, etc.	1,019,640.00
Depreciation and repairs	1,888.21
Travel and meals	11,179.22
Real estate	1,424.51
Commissions and interest	5,887.26
Donations - other	1,707.51
Other - net	1,842.86
TOTAL EXPENSES	1,651,045.51
NET INCOME FOR YEAR 1964	5,472.38
DEFICIT - JANUARY 1, 1964	287,229.66
DEFICIT - DECEMBER 31, 1964	\$136,457.28

Note: No provision for Federal income tax is required due to the application of a net operating loss carry-forward pursuant to the provisions of the Internal Revenue Code.

THE JOHN KIRCH COMPANY, INCORPORATED	
BALANCE SHEET	
December 31, 1964	
ASSETS	
Accounts Receivable - less allowance of \$3,108.21	\$7,438.23
Prepaid accounts	65,436.11
Inventory of books, etc. - at lower of cost or market	29,310.48
Inventory, etc. - less accumulated depreciation of \$10,024.33	24,170.40
Prepaid expenses	6,517.76
Prepaid subscriptions - at cost (amount value \$9,215.00)	9,215.00
Contributions in Robert Welch, Inc. - at market value	8.00
TOTAL ASSETS	\$136,457.28
LIABILITIES	
Notes Payable - Unsecured	\$5,000.00
Payroll taxes bearing - deferred	11,000.00
Accounts Payable	169,858.88
Robert Welch, Inc.	7,350.34
Corporation, Plasmal, Inc.	273,410.99
Accrued expenses	55,229.28
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$525,458.19
Deficit	136,457.28
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND DEFICIT	\$136,457.28

Note: At December 31, 1964, the Company was subject to various lawsuits aggregating \$9,550,000 for punitive and compensatory damages alleged to have resulted from circulation of newspapers selected by the Company or its members and from conspiracy which resulted in false arrests. These amounts are still pending and the extent to which the Company may become liable, if any, is not now ascertainable. Additionally, the John Kirch Company, Incorporated and its wholly owned subsidiary, the John Kirch Company, are defendants in a lawsuit pending against the John Kirch Company, Incorporated and the National Broadcasting Company in the amount of \$5,000,000 for damages alleged to have resulted from a trademark and likeness covered by the laws during 1964. This litigation was still in the pre-trial stage at December 31, 1964.

STATE, MAINE & COMPANY
1330 MAIN STREET
DECEMBER 31, 1964

STATE, MAINE & COMPANY
1330 MAIN STREET
DECEMBER 31, 1964

BRANCA, MAINE & COMPANY
1330 MAIN STREET
DECEMBER 31, 1964

March 19, 1965

To the Board of Directors
Robert Welch, Inc.
200 Second Avenue
Boston, Massachusetts

We have examined the balance sheet of Robert Welch, Inc. as of December 31, 1964. Our examination was made in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards, and accordingly included such tests of the accounting records and such other auditing procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances. We were not able to independently verify a liability of \$5,000.00 due to a creditor on a 14 month promissory note, but we satisfied ourselves as to this liability by other procedures.

In our opinion, subject to the collectibility of the amounts due from the John Kirch Company, Incorporated (\$169,858.88), and Corporation, Plasmal, Inc. (\$13,410.99), the accompanying balance sheet presents fairly the financial position of Robert Welch, Inc. at December 31, 1964, in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles applied on a basis consistent with that of the preceding year.

The accompanying statement of income and expenses and deficit for the year ended December 31, 1964 has been prepared from the books of account without restriction.

John B. Broun

DOCUMENTARY HISTORY OF THE JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY

1965

02/19/65 = The President, the FBI and the Justice Department received thousands of letters inquiring or complaining about the Birch Society. Many times, correspondents wanted to know why the Birch Society was not designated as a subversive organization--just like the Ku Klux Klan.

J. Walter Yeagley (Assistant Attorney General, Internal Security Division of the Justice Department) answered one such inquiry in February 1965, copied below.



10/11/65 = JBS Public Relations Director John Rousselot addressed a Testimonial Dinner for Mr. and Mrs. Robert Welch in Los Angeles. Among the accomplishments of the JBS which Rousselot listed were: "340 bookstores across the country, 75 full-time field men; over 100 books on many subjects; the official magazine [of the JBS, *American Opinion*] has over 50 thousand circulation; over one thousand lectures and speakers are scheduled for the coming year..."

11/04/65 = JBS National Council member Dr. Thomas Parker sent a letter to Robert Welch to address the ongoing debate within the JBS about whether or not the official JBS motto should be revised to include the phrase "*under God*". Parker's letter is copied below. Parker's letter is significant because aside from the substantive matter under consideration it reveals the omnipresent mindset within the JBS -- i.e. that the JBS will always be under "attack" by "enemies". In short, there is never a legitimate, honorable, alternative, competing point of view.

November 4, 1965

Mr. Robert Welch
Editor
American Opinion
Dear Mr. Welch:

It is an honor to respond to your letter of October 28th and to the JBS's motto.

In the light of the situation, as your letter makes clear, I am sure that the members of the John Birch Society are serious believers in God. Though I must admit the details of their beliefs may differ, which is inconsequential for our purposes. I am sure that the very nature of our mission and the history of the Society is God.

There are two reasons why we should not change the present motto:

1. The issue has been raised. Having the phrase "under God" or "in God's name" has been used since the 17th century. It is not an issue that we should avoid. It has been raised.
2. If we change the motto, we have been warned from the words of our fathers that within the words, the words of God have been used to make something out of it. It is not an issue that we should avoid. It has been raised.

There is no doubt that we are going to be attacked in the future as we are now. We must not let our motto be changed. I believe that this is a issue upon which we should welcome attacks but that we should still be in the right to defend our motto.

November 4, 1965

Mr. Welch
Dear Mr. Welch:

Having read the letter of the Society, I am sure that the members of the John Birch Society are serious believers in God. Though I must admit the details of their beliefs may differ, which is inconsequential for our purposes. I am sure that the very nature of our mission and the history of the Society is God.

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2. If we change the motto, we have been warned from the words of our fathers that within the words, the words of God have been used to make something out of it. It is not an issue that we should avoid. It has been raised.

There is no doubt that we are going to be attacked in the future as we are now. We must not let our motto be changed. I believe that this is a issue upon which we should welcome attacks but that we should still be in the right to defend our motto.

11/23/65 = National Council member Slobodan Draskovich corresponded with fellow Council member Revilo Oliver about the proposal to add the phrase "*under God*" to the official JBS motto. This letter is significant because, once again, it reveals the mindset at senior levels of the Society with respect to perceiving the unsavory character of ALL opponents of the JBS.

Oddly, while National Council members welcomed the input of Revilo Oliver on the "*under God*" matter, it appears they did not know that Oliver was a virulent atheist. In subsequent years, Oliver wrote essays for a neo-nazi magazine (*Liberty Bell*) which compared Christianity to spiritual syphilis!



12/09/65 = The JBS 7th Anniversary Testimonial Dinner is held at the Edgewater Beach Hotel in Chicago IL. The Master of Ceremonies was G. Edward Griffin. Griffin established one the first chapters of the JBS in the Los Angeles area and he served as a Chapter Leader, Section Leader, and a Major Coordinator. He also headed the Audio-Visual Department of the JBS. Griffin was designated by Robert Welch as one of only four individuals who could serve as official spokesmen for the JBS. The other three were Robert Welch, John Rousselot, and Reed Benson.

An official JBS pamphlet produced for this event stated that:

"The Society now has from a few to several hundred chapters in each of the forty-eight continental states and Alaska. It has Home Chapter members in all fifty states and in many foreign countries. It has between 240 and 250 employees, including a field staff of between seventy and seventy-five Coordinators and Major Coordinators, with a total payroll of between \$35,000 and \$40,000 per week. It has hundreds of Section Leaders, plus thousands of Chapter Leaders who devote a tremendous amount of time and effort to the Society without any pay, even as to their expenses."

12/13/65 = JBS member Ben Klassen of Pompano Beach FL makes arrangements for JBS National Council member Tom Anderson to speak under the auspices of the JBS Speakers Bureau before the Fact Finders Forum of Broward County (Ft. Lauderdale FL) on 1/13/66. Klassen would later resign from the Society with a very caustic denunciation of Robert Welch for his dumbing-down of JBS members so that they did not recognize the "Jewish" component of the Master Conspiracy.

Klassen went on to found the racist and anti-semitic Church of the Creator and the Nationalist White Party. In 1970, he co-authored a pamphlet entitled "50 Phony Arguments Used By Kosher Conservatives To Confuse Gentiles" in which he declared that "communism is a Jewish conspiracy created to destroy the white race through mongrelization, annihilation, and degeneration."

Due to Google sites space limitations, the *Documentary History of the John Birch Society* is on 5 webpages here:

CHAPTER.....Time Period.....URL

JBS 9-1 / 01/58 thru 08/11/60 = <https://sites.google.com/site/ernie1241/>

JBS 9-2 / 09/60/60 thru 12/15/61 = <https://sites.google.com/site/ernie1241a/>

JBS 9-3 / 01/62 thru 12/31/64 = <https://sites.google.com/site/ernie1241b/>

JBS 9-4 / 01/65 thru 12/31/65 = <https://sites.google.com/site/jbs9004/>

JBS 9-5 / 01/66 thru current = <https://sites.google.com/site/jbs9005a/>

Documentary History of the John Birch Society

1966

1966 was arguably the most eventful and traumatic year in JBS history up to that time. Although not all details are currently known, there were numerous incidents which revolved around JBS members and JBS bookstores which circulated literature authored by anti-semitic sources. In addition, there was a major debate within the Society over the leadership of Robert Welch.

02/14-15/66 = Robert Welch sent a memo to Donald R. Gray, the Business Manager of the Birch Society's Wholesale Book Division, concerning Gray's 2/14/66 memo to American Opinion bookstores. In his memo, Gray advises JBS bookstores about the type of "*anti-semitic*" material which should not be sold in AO bookstores.

According to Gray's instructions, "...most of the books and pamphlets with an anti-Semitic flavor which we omit from our booklist are not of sufficient value in substance or scholarship to rise above the level of anti-Semitic invective or propaganda. Frankly, in our opinion, this applies to most of the books or pamphlets by Marilyn Allen, Richard Cotten, Myron Fagan, Kenneth Goff, Wickliffe Vennard, Eustace Mullins, Gerald K. Smith, Robert H. Williams and Benjamin Freedman."

In his memo, Robert Welch claims that in February 1966, the Birch Society had "*several hundred*" Jewish members. It is not clear how he could know this since JBS membership applications do not have a field for entry of religious heritage and the JBS did not allow scholars to survey JBS members in order to construct a factual summary of demographic data regarding their membership.

Welch referred to the recent publication by the Anti-Defamation League of its 112-page book entitled "*Report on The John Birch Society 1966*". Welch presents a blame-the-victim type of argument: "...one purpose of the ADL in publishing this recent booklet is to try to make us and our members actually anti-Semitic. Whole booklet...shows that they are now out to try to destroy the John Birch Society at any cost, and practically by any means. And they would certainly consider driving us into anti-Semitic feelings as one way of doing so."

Thus, in the JBS scheme of things, when JBS members (by word or deed) revealed their anti-semitic sentiments, it was the fault of Jewish organizations like ADL for discovering and documenting those incidents. Furthermore, apparently Welch is acknowledging that JBS members would be receptive to believing or circulating anti-semitic arguments -- which is why he thinks that the ADL would expend energy and resources "*to try to make us and our members actually anti-Semitic.*"

This is a constant contradictory theme in JBS argumentation:

One the one hand, the JBS proposes that it is not capable of grievous error or noxious prejudiced beliefs, statements, and conclusions. **Only** JBS opponents are capable of such profound moral and intellectual deficiencies.

But, on the other hand, one booklet published by ADL containing criticisms of the JBS might easily convince Birchers to believe and disseminate anti-semitic statements.

000/001

Donald A. Gray
Business Manager

7/30/66 = National Council member Revilo P. Oliver submits his resignation letter to Robert Welch. In his resignation letter, Oliver makes a startling and absurd accusation which, yet again, reveals Oliver's profound anti-semitic beliefs:

"I now learn with shock and dismay that you are not, in fact, the head of the John Birch Society. I have ascertained that you are subject to the secret direction of a secret committee composed of Messrs. Blumenfeld, Kogan, Greene and Solomon, whose orders you must and do obey. Since Blumenfeld is ostensibly on the payroll of the John Birch Society as an employee in Belmont and the others are youngsters in their early twenties, I can only conclude that the four who supervise you must do so as a representative of some very powerful organization. When I try to guess what the organization may be, I shudder."

GARY T. B. YN., PHILIP S. CHURCH

KEYWORDS: child sexual abuse; disclosure; legal system; police; social workers

30 July 1966

Mr. Robert Welch,
The John Birch Society,
Belmont 75, Massachusetts.

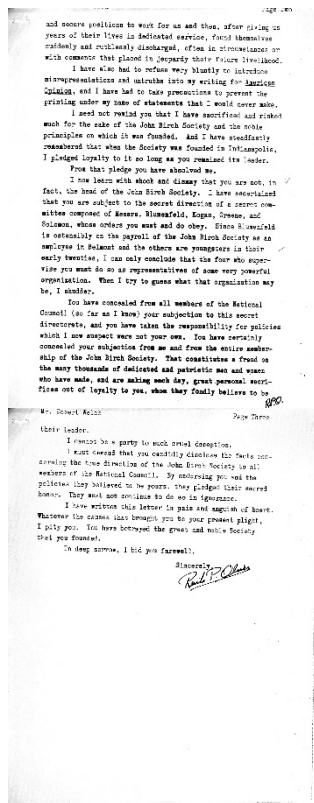
Dear Bob,

It is with a very heavy heart that I notify you of my immediate resignation from the National Council of the John Birch Society, from the Society itself, and from my functions as Associate Editor of American Opinion.

I need not tell you how deeply I am grieved to take this action in view of the long and close friendship that I believe to exist between us and of the lavish praise that you have bestowed on me in both public and private, ranging from the unreservedly extravagant statement to print that I am "quite possibly the world's greatest living scholar" to your flattering commendation of my speech in Boston when we conferred after the banquet this past Fourth of July.

It has been pointed out that the use of the term "Cognitive Skills" is not well

It was agreed among us that our friendship although collaboration was not impaired in recent years although I have felt obliged to protest both in meetings of the Council and to you personally policies which I believed to be contrary to the principles on which the Society was founded and which I feared would result in catastrophic losses of leadership and consequent financial crisis. I tried to prevent the arbitrary expulsion of loyal members of the Society and the publication of confusing or contradictory statements concerning the Society's position on various issues. I have deplored the capricious discharge of salaried coordinators and other members of the staff who left more remunerative



8/8/66 = Robert Welch "*To A Number of Friends Who Have Written Us About Dr. Oliver's Speech*" begins by criticizing press coverage of Oliver's July 4th speech for "[distortions, exaggerations, and outright falsehoods as to what he actually said.](#)"

But, then, even Welch acknowledged the problem:

"Nevertheless, there were parts of the speech which were just as disturbing to us as to anybody else." Welch continued: "...we do not subscribe at all to Dr. Oliver's '*racial superiority*' theories, nor to his views concerning the basic degeneracy of the human race."

Welch closed his memo with a remarkable statement.

Despite Oliver's "[racial superiority theories](#)" and his belief in the "[basic degeneracy of human race](#)", nevertheless "[we have accepted his resignation from the COUNCIL of the Society with a considerable and natural reluctance.](#)"

Keep in mind that Welch described as the primary purpose of the JBS National Council to be "[To show the caliber of the men who are supporting and helping to run The John Birch Society](#)" Furthermore, membership in the JBS was not just a function of one's anti-communist beliefs. Instead, Welch told the founding meeting

According to the J.R.R., how presented as him conducting their own and how as the same time tried as to show the way of submitting my investigation before than proceeding indefinitely a situation which is becoming increasingly more so.

The reasons for my resignation can be summed up in one point: you have failed to implement the action and such special means that we have been told every day of the J.R.R., and you have failed to provide the necessary action as organization with the help that the J.R.R. should have and have been (and, really, still is).

As you probably, but definitely and personally have stated earlier, real progress, not theory, the real struggle against the communist conspiracy. At the time when the public opinion was outraged by what was happening in Washington and the large, and thus complete, in its character, sensitive and human message, we had no reaction. Instead, you were denying your obligation to acknowledge some and necessary distinctions between capitalist and communists, or among right-wing, imperialist and socialist organizations in the movement.

You have increasingly started taking a stand on the burning issues of the day, although there is nothing, not abandonment, but a clear stand and a good social stance. Instead, my position has been based on the side, left and human, spiritual level of "moral issues". In some other problems you have proclaimed explicitly that the J.R.R. "have not taken a stand".

You have refused to make in the sense of "moral" and social responsibility, which standing me with your own intelligence means that a number of persons and situations. The lack of responsibility that you want to do and not want to do or that should be, but, having enough confidence in your own, directed too much of the best energies of our members. We can no longer afford that waste of effort.

In the most immediate and decisive issue of the world situation, Vietnam, you have presented the Basic Document. You have tried to the right of the day, and then the "Moral" line of conditional support for the anti-communist forces from Vietnam, which is clearly what the communist want. Thus, naturally, you have made an effort to tell the line of "who we are going to side in Vietnam - and why not?" Which one is the real subject matter?

You have been explicit from the beginning since our first position that we are following the communist and enemy side, but you have allowed the enemy to enter and resist in our view one of the anti-communist forces, anti-Berlin. Against all our best principles, you have accepted, in one place your explicit standing to the founding of the Jewish Society of Washington, which is a completely in every respect. Thus, as you are present every of the J.R.R., because of the anti-communist forces, declaring that he faces the world, who he has of anti-communist, he is using some efforts to the J.R.R., in the public opinion and in the U.S. than the members and presence of the J.R.R.

and this time is better. The J.R.R. was founded on the principle that we are making an identification and distinction between America, except as the ground at that time in the communist conspiracy and their document loyalty to the principles of the American People. We, as members of the J.R.R., have stated these principles and we could not have, possibly been aware of the fact that the message to our group (religious, racial, national, etc.) of America and "the way of America" is precisely the line along which the communist operate.

The issue of Vietnam, which I discussed at an early date (I did so about March 1967) was never and I have been associated in the month

before and in your contact with J.R.R. members. This issue, however, is a very telling issue.

In the vital issue of our belief in that, you have taken an ambiguous view and finally accepted a position on the movement of our basic work, in spite of your own convictions.

You believe the abilities of our members, the disinterested or interested members, and the various groups and members of the group, which you were unable to take, you have had any definite line of support. While, however, you believe and believe that we would have a million members within two years after the founding of the J.R.R., you have given us any risk of achieving that, without any previous explanation or any change of strategy. Instead, you have made in the 1960s in the 1960s the embarrassing statement that we do not want to give beyond one 100,000 members, because otherwise we would become too strong and we would have power(?)

This is all too telling in a hurry the most glaring shortcoming of a leadership which is living the J.R.R. without direction, goal or leadership.

For you know that that, I do not know. I wish to believe that it is already behind what you started out and pointed to do was beyond your capabilities.

A few leaders were present not only I have intelligence and a vast knowledge, which you have, but many were qualified, when you do not, or not sufficiently.

There is a definite set of values, or objectives, among which I place first the belief in that. You also have absolute that the next, the definition of the communist forces, goals and policies, the corresponding persons, and conditions. The central is the matter for balanced reasoning, the ability to succeed in our's judgment. At the present time and

5.
feature, which this severely not assign to them, in the final outlook my (the
own conclusion, the place they merit. (The intellectual and spiritual
language together of Heidegger and Husserl as in the final and last teaching
does not clearly stand, but combine them. It does not consist in inter-
standing, but rather in mere attention.)

A true teacher must be able to inspire confidence in the victory of the cause
he is representing, and not hand a windy scepter of defiance and futile
negotiation.

Finally, once he has said more that he is right, a true teacher must have the
fortitude to pursue his course under the most adverse circumstances and not be
discouraged or deterred by any earthly power.

All these qualities of genuine leadership you have not displayed (or only
partially), as every people, to their great dismay, are coming to realize.

But if the key to the understanding of what is happening is not to the A.H.E.
were put to your personal shortcomings, the whole picture would be too grim
nothing. There have been, however, some strong opinions that the cause is more
complicated, namely in the sense that your personal additions were absolutely
misleading any other considerations. For a long time, I have rejected these
opinions. Now, I am not sure.

But what appears wrong is that you failed to rise to a full understanding
of the nature of leadership, especially the first moral duty to accomplish
the task of the whole world.

Finally, you will disagree you were in founding the A.H.E. and saying things
which would not stand the test of the failure of these experiments for the duration
of the human spirit and the new world to right mankind.

But these words have been often by your shaping a line of basic questions
in the last few years, of right time distinct circles and of resistance in
the patiently endless despite assertion that "all we need to win is suf-
ficient understanding".

The relationship between a leader and his followers is not a one-way street.
It is a spiritual and moral contract with mutual obligations, whereby the
first and foremost obligation to that of the leader to keep the promise and
unwaveringly defend and fight for the cause which he proclaimed and which
he called the fight. For me, - and I am sure thousands of other people,
understand to this time your weakness as individual responsibility. It is
a quality which can't start to come, when we are not provided it.

The essence of leadership is personal and to fight, not to follow
or please or to please everybody. The leader will not be the best, because
the direction, change the course, change constantly and consistently,
overcome limitations directly, not by yielding to pressure, personal tastes
and preferences not trying to be able to everybody, but on the contrary, by
drawing a clear line between right and wrong, true and false and thus lead-
ing, resolutely - with all the patience and intelligence for personal failure
and possibilities, - those to come to justify their course.

This is probably what you have not done. While very important with my dis-
agreement with whatever direction you had taken, the project you had initiated,
you have used enormous amounts of energy to solve problems and difficulties
not by determining right and wrong, true and false, good and bad, but
by presenting irreconcilable opposition and making substantial steps against
standards to connect mankind together and believing in people of one kind, while
having unbridled and unlimited the commercial forces which were dividing
them.

6.
This is not sufficient to lead mankind. The new world will not be
created in this way.

But to our leadership, in a situation of unprecedented crisis, spiritual
and intellectual confusion, the primary need is not leadership, but clear
vision, definite principles and unyielding determination to execute them.
Without this we cannot win, but this cannot be a good foundation for a
personal struggle - and certainly progress from now has been to lead
to victory.

For the present, I believe the A.H.E. of the necessary change of our
life, at the moment of crisis, is a necessary and the most of them. The
second the A.H.E. can also you attack the spirit, thereby doing it to follow.

And these are the three steps to place in my commitment of personal
responsibility, which I want the best for you. Our task is not to be
able to see the whole, but to see the whole and then act on it. We are not
to be seen, but to be seen when we are able to act on it. We are
to be seen to the whole of the leading leadership on human existence,
to be seen to the whole of the human existence for their concerns and
interests - the best are the best, the best and the best.

I have never been able to see the whole, but I am not sure I am no longer
able to see the whole. When we are going to see the whole, but
contingently, changing the time of action and trying to make progress
unrealistic and empty, as a new direction. This is not a new direction,
it is a new direction and it is a new direction, and it is a new direction.
I have in the 19th, 19th, and a new direction in the 19th century
history, through your own contribution. Now we are going to see the
whole, but everything possible, and I am not sure I am.

their committee advises you, but what guidance we. And I see here the privilege and duty of friendship, even we support with members of the J.B.S. have given us, only if the belief on which they vote alone is preserved. Other- wise not.

In any case I can no longer, as a member of the Council of the John Birch Society and executive office of the American Overseas Society, share the responsibility for the way the J.B.S. efforts are being run, while having no part, no say and no influence in determining its policies.

As you we know I have, since then emphatically stated, voiced my opinions and constructive criticism from the beginning. Unable to refute my arguments, which took great respect by 1953, you have resorted to personal hostility. In the hope that there might still be a chance of straightening out things and fulfilling the hope which the J.B.S. had awakened in the hearts of countless Americans, I have not allowed your petty vengeance and very subtly planned and executed campaign to influence my behavior and actions, nor to deter me out of the J.B.S. Since now, I would have preferred to get cleared before the J.B.S. Council met, it need not, before the audience. But the burden of my work has been and still is too big to allow the necessary time to follow, analyze, systematize and put on paper all the countermeasures, conclusions, countermeasures and findings of our field staff in the way you have been conducting the affairs of the J.B.S. Besides, events have been running fast and so has the progressive deterioration of your leadership.

No, I can no longer wait, but must resign first and present the full tale and give a full account to the people later.

The communist conspiracy can be broken and the United States can be saved only by an organized effort which has as aim, a definite set of values and

principles, clear steps and a blueprint for the future to right, coupled with an irrefutable demonstration that the United States and Freedom are possible. I had hoped that the J.B.S. would embody that urgent effort.

Now it is clear that the J.B.S. is not and will never be the nucleus of the communist conspiracy and the center of America. That is the path to which your leadership has brought it.

The concrete results are the best verdict on a policy. And the results are, in your own words, "... from one city to another ... systematic classes ... ranging among our members". This is not a description by the enemy. It is your own statement, which defines the stage we have reached after eight years of existence and work, and of spreading of "misunderstanding". And if that is the prevailing situation among our members, what can we expect from non-members, and that are the members of the J.B.S. to who our influence does and being they "misunderstanding". But you have not left the question unanswered. "But don't all I usually accept, of course, in trying to put all upon these troubled waters, was to get myself completely entangled with all." Which means it is up.

At this point, it is doubtful why you have done what you have and failed to do what you have failed to do. The results are there. And clearing your name before the facts of the situation, as you have done in 1953 and subsequently, will not change it. Nor can the J.B.S. be saved by the perditions and countless shifts of perspective, from that of the J.B.S. making the U.S. to that of the J.B.S. being our truest concern, and the salvation of the U.S. secondary.

I did not join the J.B.S. in 1953 to save the J.B.S., per se, such was its duty, you personally. I thought that the J.B.S. had a chance of becoming a valuable tool to the only struggle of the communist century and that you

would undertake in your effort to implement the original purposes. The enemy was hopeful. To explain the attempt for the value of the committee of the victory of America with a personal admission of that fact and a reservation of the John Birch Society, recognition of what happened to the country, - does not make sense to me.

I am very sorry indeed to leave the John Birch Society and thus cut the connections that with its leaders, the many thousands of its patients and personal friends. But no more to the J.B.S., and be increasingly unable to answer their misleading questions about the J.B.S., was no longer possible.

I often sincerely regret to see my J.B.S. affiliation with the members of the J.B.S. Council. I was sure of my association with them because of their common pastime and their own personal qualities. Their way that they I have better and with them I had the opportunity of working more closely, I have come to like as true friends and respect for their intention to the maintenance of this country.

But you have left us no choice. You have not only given us the moral freedom which has caused the John Birch Society from a national movement to be an organization which is increasingly disintegrated the members of America, deeply affecting the country, but you have caused the J.B.S. Council to be a mere financial force, without any reference to shaping the destiny of the J.B.S. The honor of belonging to an organization and a council is inseparable from the responsibility that goes with it. I can no longer enjoy the honor without the responsibility.

And I see no possibility of correcting the situation under the present conditions, nor you have discarded my confidence in you and my certainty that you have been not only doing your best.

Respectfully,
Robert D. Lawrence

08/14/66 = Revilo Oliver "To Members of the Council of the John Birch Society":

Oliver claims that Robert Welch stated that three members of the JBS National Council were Communists. Oliver attached a copy of his press release concerning his resignation -- copied below.

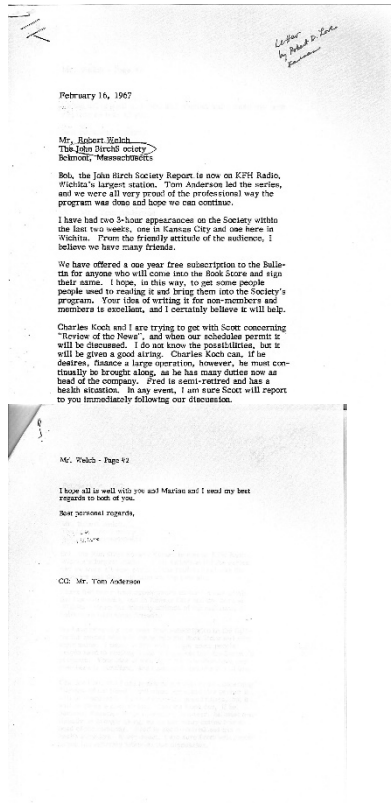
Oliver explains his JBS resignation: "For almost two years I have been perturbed--as I know some of you gentlemen have been--by the ever increasing ineffectiveness and internal disintegration of the John Birch Society. I became convinced that there was something seriously wrong in Belmont and undertook an investigation, utilizing various special sources of information available to me." Oliver then goes on to give his explanation of the events that led to his resignation -- copied below.

[illegible]

Vice-Chairman = Samuel L. Blumenfeld

Executive Secretary = W.C. Solomon

02/16/67 = JBS National Council member Robert D. Love sends a letter to Robert Welch advising him that he and Charles Koch anticipate meeting with Scott Stanley Jr., the editor of the JBS magazine, *Review of the News*. According to Love: "[Charles Koch can, if he desires, finance a large operation, however, he must continually be brought along, as he has many duties now as head of the company.](#)" About a year later, Love and Koch place a full-page advertisement in the *Wichita KS Eagle* newspaper calling upon our national leaders to withdraw U.S. forces from Vietnam. Both Love and Koch subsequently resign from the Birch Society.



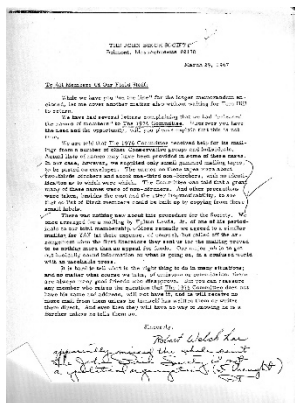
3/29/67 = Robert Welch *"To All Members Of Our Field Staff"*: Welch explains to field staff that the JBS provided gummed mailing labels containing JBS member names/addresses to a new political group, The 1976 Committee.

The 1976 Committee was created to launch "[a 10-year crusade to assure a conservative executive branch of the Federal Government.](#)" Its initial 16-page brochure declared that there were "[tremendously powerful and solidly entrenched forces at work right here on American soil, which are determined to abolish our nation's](#)

The Committee endorsed Ezra Taft Benson for President and Sen. Strom Thurmond for Vice President in 1968 election.

In addition, K.G. Benton, Robert Dresser and Charles Edison were members of 1976 Committee and also served on the Editorial Advisory committee for the Birch Society magazine, *American Opinion*.

JBS National Council member Clarence (Pat) Manion handwrote a comment on Welch's memo that Welch "apparently missed the whole point. The John Birch Society is not a political organization (I thought).



10/26/67 = JBS National Council member A.G. Heinsohn Jr. responds to a critical article about the JBS published by the *Wall Street Journal*.

"Whatever its shortcomings, the John Birch Society does have as members a dedicated group of patriots...Instead of running down anti-communists, I suggest you fight those who are destroying American. Expose the oath violators in Washington who persist in changing America from a Republic of free men into a socialist-communist welfare state. Fight the despoilers of America, not the defenders, if you really believe in the free enterprise system and in individual liberty."

"The Director made mention of the John Birch Society and noted that this organization's leadership has mislead (sic) some good and well intended people. In this regard the Director cited the scurrilous allegations that Robert Welch made some years ago concerning the loyalty of the late General Eisenhower and the late John Foster Dulles, as examples of the type of disgraceful activity in which the leadership of the John Birch Society has been known to indulge."

[illegible]

1971 - current

After the death of JBS founder Robert Welch in January 1985, an internal power struggle commenced which ultimately caused Mr. Welch's wife (Marian Welch) to end her relationship with the Birch Society because of her differences with the new management. In particular, she objected to the way in which new JBS leadership was trashing President Ronald Reagan in the pages of the JBS magazine, *The New American*.

7/23/85 = Marian Welch sends a message to all members of the JBS National Council announcing her resignation as editor of JBS publications. Then, in December 1985, Mrs. Welch circulates another message as part of a package of critical letters which were disseminated by JBS lifetime member, Dr. Charles Provan

TO: All Members of the Council of The John Birch Society
FROM: Marian Probert Welch
Date: July 23, 1985

Because I do not see eye-to-eye with the Management of The John Birch Society, I am giving up all responsibilities, including writing, at these offices, and have resigned as an editor of our publications.

I shall continue to abide by the long range program as outlined by my husband, Robert Welch. With the full knowledge of my enduring obligation to that program, I shall work full time for the principles as outlined in the Blue Book which I helped to put together more than two decades ago.

Marian Probert Welch

It has become apparent to me that the present program of The John Birch Society has departed from its basic principles. And, although I shall continue my Membership in the Society, I can no longer support its present program.

My concern is constantly increased because of the continuing telephone calls and letters I am receiving, some from long-time and staunch members, many of whom I know personally, and others with whom I have had no acquaintance. The message from all of them is the same: they are disturbed about what they see is happening to the program of the Society and they ask me to do something about it. A good many of these members have already transferred their allegiance to other organizations which have come into existence because of the inspiration given to them by The John Birch Society. These members say they still write letters to Congressmen and others who should have them but they attend the meetings of these newer organizations which they find offer more dynamic inspiration.

Marian Welch

24 Dec 85

Mrs Welch asked me to please include this letter in my packet.

Charles M.D.

7/10/85 = John Rees states that his publication (*Information Digest*) and his company (MARA = Mid-Atlantic Research Associates, Inc.) subsidized the Birch Society's news magazine (*Review of the News*) -- which he estimated to be services worth \$48,000 per year. Rees describes the replacement of JBS editor Scott Stanley and discontinuance of the JBS magazines as a betrayal of what JBS founder Robert Welch sought to achieve and Rees' derogatory comments regarding Jack McManus raise a religious intolerance issue which became even more salient years later when a major controversy erupted within the JBS about anti-semitic comments made by McManus.

Directors:
Robert Moss
Arnold de Borchgrave
John Rees



Mid-Atlantic Research Associates, Inc.

July 10, 1985

Following weeks of rumor, I learned today that Scott Stanley and Lee Clark are leaving *The Review of the News*. I already understood that *American Opinion* no longer was to be published, and that *TROTN* would be redesigned as to format and content. In view of the large, loyal following that *AO* and *TROTN* have built in the Society, I find it most unfortunate, indeed reprehensible, that news of their demise and of these major staff changes were not mentioned in the July issue of the *JBS Bulletin*.

Three weeks ago I spoke with Cliff Barker about these matters. It was a friendly discussion; he proposed a meeting to discuss the future of the publications. I very readily agreed, offering to meet him at Belmont, as it always has been my belief that without constructive change there is no improvement, and, over the years Scott and I had discussed a variety of ways to boost circulation. Mainly, let it be said, by improved business methods and some innovative features, such as efficient record keeping! (Aspects of the magazine that had never been under Scott's control.)

I have heard nothing further from Cliff.

At this time there are some facts that are generally not known of which you should be aware.

Throughout my association with you all, and for the cause that we believe in, I always refused speakers fees and my attendance at Council meetings has been at my own expense. Before Larry McDonald's death, my *Information Digest* and *MARA* partially subsidized *TROTN*'s activities in Washington. Since the shoot-down of *KAL 007*, *MARA* has assumed all of these expenses. They include office space,

secretarial and reporting help to cover press conferences and briefings, the legal cost involved in keeping *TROTN* out of litigation, *WHITE* lines and telephone charges, travel, subscriptions, and all the incidental expenses involved in running a news bureau. As some of you know, our phones have been staffed 12-hours a day with readers, staff, Birch Research and others calling for information. (Often our information, with my full agreement, has been used as a money-generating item by Birch Research.)

My accountants estimate these contributions to be some \$3,930 a month - in round figures \$48,000 a year. We made this contribution in the belief that *AO* and *TROTN* were effective in the mission conceived by Robert Welch, ably implemented by Scott Stanley and his staff.

During the past ten years I have been well-placed to learn the impact of our magazines. It has been awesome and enormous. The magazines have been responsible for many major conservative victories. More important, perhaps, the magazines were able to stop a number of betrayals, to expose and thwart some "insiders" machinations, and to provide invaluable ammunition to conservatives - the old right, the new right and the neo-conservatives.

The values and ideas of Mr. Welch that were scoffed at in the '50s and 60s found general acceptance in the 70s and 80s. This was due first, because of the soundness of Mr. Welch's thinking, and secondly, because Scott Stanley and his Belmont team put out first rate publications that provoked thought first, then action. Seeds were planted and nurtured, the first fruits of the harvest were gathered but now that it is time to gather in the crop, the harvesting machinery has been dismantled.

Only fools, knaves or our enemies would allow this to happen - and I, for my part, will not associate with those who are betraying what Robert Welch sought to achieve with his publications.

The selection of John McManus, as "interim editor," by Cliff Barker is tragic. Jack is not a professional journalist, he has no magazine or news gathering experience. His bizarre comments in the past were contrary to those expressed by Mr. Welch; and his rigid intolerance towards those whose religious views differ from his, are offensive to Protestants, Jews and mainstream Catholics.

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Like you I would like to see *TROTN*, or its successor flourish; but without an editor of Scott Stanley's calibre, this will not happen. Scott is widely respected, not only in the entire conservative movement, but in the journalistic community. He exercised sound judgement in the two decades that he worked with Mr. Welch, and gave of himself, unstintingly to the periodicals and the Society. Who has not heard Scott speak and listened to the applause? Who, but mean-spirited creatures motivated by envy, hatred or malice would want to remove him from his friends and readers? His summary removal, at this most critical time is unbelievable. No replacement will have Scott's credibility, while some who are being approached (or claim to be) are not only shop-soiled, but sadly flawed failures. In this world you get what you deserve!

As of July 15, I will publicly disassociate myself from *TROTN*. Any statements that I make will be related to the wisdom of Mr. Welch and how he, Scott Stanley and his staff made *AO* and *TROTN* the flagship periodicals for America's intelligent Conservatives. Obviously, I will, having received their permissions, add by name, others associated for many years with the magazines who share my views and do not wish to participate in the Barker-created folly.

Please do not think that this letter reflects on you or the leadership that you have exercised in the past. Conditions change, but we must remain loyal to the philosophy of Robert Welch and the man, Scott Stanley, who worked with him on the magazines. Over the years we have enjoyed the battle together and if I, or my organization can be of assistance to you in the future - just pick up the phone.

Louise joins me in sending our very best wishes to you and yours.

Sincerely,

John Rees

JR:pc
cc: A. Clifford Barker
Thomas N. Hill

8/19/85 = Gary Allen was, arguably, the most prolific writer for the Birch Society during the 1970's and early 1980's. His February 1972 paperback, *None Dare Call It Conspiracy*, is one of the most well-known and often-cited right-wing conspiracy narratives of all time. Consequently, it came as a major shock to JBS members and supporters when Gary denounced the new leadership of the JBS in a blistering letter copied below:

Mr. Gary Allen
2012 Tigertail Drive
Rossano, California 90720

August 19, 1985

Dear Fellow Birchers:

This month would have marked my 20th anniversary as a writer for *American Opinion*. During this time I have written over 200 articles for the magazine. The total word count is over two million. I never intended to be a journalist. I became one because I was mad as Hell about what was going on in the world. That is why I became first a Bircher and then, by circumstances, a Journalist.

My writings have been well-received by Birchers because they knew I was telling the truth and not sinning any words. Well, it's time to tell some more truths. Unfortunately, this is the most unpleasant truth I have ever had to tell. But the fact is that our vehicle to preserve and regain our freedom and liberties has been stolen from us. And, it was an inside job. I am going to tell you things that you don't want to hear; things that will break your heart. But, we can't hide from the truth. If we do, we are simply engaging in the same kind of fantasies as your typical slumbering citizen.

You know by now that AO has been ash-canned. Robert Welch must be spinning in his grave. He created AO as the ideological base and transmission belt for our movement. AO and TROTH are theoretically to be replaced by a hybrid whose name, *The New American*, is also used by the Social Democrats for their newspaper! An ideological journal and a newsmagazine don't mix very well, but that is not the point. The official line is that the magazines had low circulation and were losing money. This conveniently ignores the fact that Scott Stanley only produced the magazines. He was denied any voice in promotion although he certainly craved to see his creations get the promotion and circulation they deserved. He was promised repeatedly that marketing, subscription renewal policies and the like would be improved. These promises were never honored.

Before we go any further let's get something straight. The official party line from Belmont will be that I wrote this letter because I am angry about Scott being fired. Guilty, but with an explanation. Yes, Scott Stanley is the closest friend I have on this earth. I couldn't love him more if we were genetic brothers.

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The only thing crueler than the way Scott was treated was the absolutely despicable way Mrs. Welch was treated. The Barker Gang's line on this one is that Mrs. Welch retired because of age. Another lie. She was rudely treated and was shoved out. Can you believe that? Call her and ask her about it. You also know what a wonderful, classy woman she is. But, even if she weren't, just the fact that she is Robert Welch's widow entitles her to be treated with the utmost respect and courtesy.

About the lowest, most vulgar stunt I've ever heard of was when Jack McManus slithered into Mrs. Welch's office just two days after Mr. Welch's death to gloat to her that her husband had converted to Feeneyite Catholicism on his deathbed, after having taken instructions in the faith. This is a damnable lie. During the last months of his life he didn't even recognize his wife most of the time. He couldn't take instructions in anything. You may think this stunt is beneath contempt, but I have a lot of contempt for it.

The Feeneyites believe the Pope, whom the KGB tried to assassinate, is a Communist and that all non-Feeneyites are going to Hell. Outside of Tom Hill and Barker, this cult virtually runs Belmont. If the general membership ever found out about Feeneyite control of the Belmont bureaucracy, there would be revolt in the ranks. *Newsweek* might find that an interesting story.

Incidentally, Mr. Welch paid for the upkeep and maintenance of his home with royalties from *The Blue Book* and *The Politician*. Barker has told Mrs. Welch that this policy has been cancelled. Robert Welch put every cent he had into the fight. There is no estate to speak of other than the house. Mrs. Welch, after everything else she has suffered, has been forced to put that house up for sale.

Who is A. Clifford Barker, anyway? Nobody knows this guy. Barker became the head of the Society not because he was chosen, but because he volunteered. The Belmont line is that he took over the Society at great sacrifice. Well, he did have to give up his welfare check. You see, he had filed bankruptcy. His board of directors threw him out after his company had gone broke doing government contracts. I thought that was impossible. It was after the bankruptcy that Sperry-Rand stepped in and took over the debacle. That is the true story behind Barker's great sacrifice, despite the baloney being peddled from Belmont. Wait 'til the media pick up this story. The truth is that Barker is a consummate liar. What are his motivations? I don't know. Some think he was sent in to deliberately destroy

-3-

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the Society. John Rees contends that if this were true, he would be more subtle about it.

What can be done about Barker "The Destroyer?" I don't know. I don't know if anything can be done. That is up to YOU. I only know that, as Burke observed, all that is necessary for evil to triumph is for good men to do nothing.

Sincerely,

Gary Allen

GA:gh

12/4/85 = Gary Allen letter to Dr. Charles Provan which posits a conspiracy within the JBS to elevate incompetent officials who would work to stifle creativity and assure failure. Gary describes the new JBS National Director of Field Activities (Charles Everett) as "a dedicated fanatic" whom *"In another day and in another place...would have been a Communist or a Nazi."*

GARY ALLEN
3811 TIGERTAIL DR.
ROSEMOR, CALIF. 95726

December 4, 1985

(213) 430-2212

Dr. Charles Provan
2370 Inglewood Dr.
McKeesport, PA. 15131

Dear Dr. Provan:

I want to congratulate you on your courageous stand and willingness to tell the truth no matter whom it offends. I want to give you my views on three very important JBS bureaucrats: Tom Hill, Chuck Armour, and Charlie Everett.

Larry McDonald, when he was preparing to take over the reins of the Society, talked to nearly one hundred former Coordinators and Major Coordinators. He found their stories incredibly repetitious. Every creative idea which would help build the Birch Society and/or damage the Conspiracy died on Tom Hill's desk. Larry's conclusion, as Kathy McDonald will verify, was that Tom Hill was a plant. There has been a great deal of debate as to whether Tom Hill is a plant--or a vegetable. Actually, it makes little difference. The bottom line is that Tom Hill stifles creativity and activity regardless of what his motives may be.

Robert Welch's Achilles heel was that he surrounded himself with sycophants who would not openly challenge his authority. Hill understood this tendency, and by withholding information and coloring the facts, managed to play Mr. Welch like a Stradivarius. Mrs. Welch says that the one major disagreement she ever had with her husband was over Tom Hill. I once said to former Coordinator Bill Murray that I thought Hill's true calling would be as a bureaucrat in the Social Security Administration. Murray disagreed. He said I over-rated Hill. Tom Hill, he said, should be taking quarters on a toll bridge. Hill has no leadership capacity. He could not inspire thirsty sailors just home from ninety days at sea to go into a bar.

While Larry McDonald concluded Hill was a plant, I have always held to the vegetable thesis. Hill is an introvert who was made, in essence, the national sales manager of a nationwide organization. For this job he was truly a mackerel out of water. In 1963 and 1964, the Society had many creative and aggressive Coordinators and members. Rather than provide training and leadership to keep these people out of trouble, all problems wound up on Tom Hill's desk. Naturally, human beings try to avoid pain. Hill soon discovered, perhaps subconsciously, that by telling people to do little more than read, write letters, and paste out literature, the number of problems arriving at his desk greatly diminished. The result, however, was to smother growth, activity, and morale in the Society.

Chuck Armour is the Western States Governor of the JBS. He is a very articulate spokesman for the positions of the Society. Chuck was an outstanding Coordinator and Major Coordinator. He was made District Governor in the wake of Rex Westerfield having turned San Marino into chaos. Westerfield, a compulsive intriguer, went to Belmont, where he wound up stealing the membership list and going back to Texas to start a political campaign management firm. In the beginning, Armour made heroic attempts to get the show back on the road. He was thwarted at every turn by Tom Hill. Armour found out that his job was all title and no authority. He had only two choices: become subservient to Tom Hill or get out. Feeling he had no other place to go to earn a living, Chuck chose the former.

This job has destroyed a once-great man. He has become a total lackey of the Over The Hill Gang. Chuck has licked Belmont's boots for so long now that it would take him a year to scrub all the shoe polish off his tongue. He has degenerated into a flagrant liar to protect his job. Armour is on a financial treadmill and can't get off. His charming-but-neurotic wife keeps him in perpetual debt. And the Birch Society has no retirement program.

Charlie Everett, now the Society's National Director of Field Activities, is simply a dedicated fanatic. He is a prototype of the stereotype that "liberals" have of conservative activists. Charlie is a hater. In another day and in another place Charlie would have been a Communist or a Nazi. Much of his hatred is aimed at other conservatives. Everett believes that the Birch Society should have a total monopoly on the conservative movement. To him, all other conservative leaders and organizations are crooks who drain away funds which should go to the Birch Society. As you say in your letter, this is the opposite of the way Robert Welch felt. He advocated alliances with our friends, not vicious battles.

You may have noticed that Larry McDonald is damned with faint praise by these three individuals. Armour even tells people that Larry McDonald would have destroyed the John Birch Society. This is because Hill, Armour, and Everett knew they were targeted for replacement by Larry.

I hope this information will help you and others to clarify the situation in Belmont.

With Great Regards,

Gary
Gary Allen

Gary Allen wrote another blistering letter about the status of the JBS (no date shown but circa 1987):

GARY ALLEN
HIVESTICKER, ILL.
ROSBROOM, CALIF. 90729

(213) 430-2282

Dear Birchers:

Let's look at the record of A. Clifford Barker, alias Cliff Wrecker, after two years as head of the John Birch Society.

1. He wiped out the most talented editorial magazine staff in the country. Scott Stanley, Lee Clark Graves, Bill Hoar, and James Graves were forced out. A group of writers, which had taken twenty years to assemble, including myself, Alan Stang, John Reas, Marion Welch, Bill Gaidy, Stephen Cole, Dr. Medford Evans, and Dr. Susan Hark, were all alienated.

In the place of American Opinion and Review of the News, Barker launched The New American. The rationale for the launching of the older magazines was that they were losing money. Actually, this was a case of "figures don't lie, but liars figure!" Because the field staff was selling ads in the magazines, their expenses were being charged off against the magazines. In reality, the magazines were not a financial drain; they were the Society's Number One revenue producers. This was the fact despite the case that there was virtually no promotion to stimulate circulation.

The new magazine abandoned the Welch dictum of "If you want it straight . . . and substituted a watered-down message that generally de-emphasized the existence of the Conspiracy. There's nothing inherently wrong with that approach. Scott Stanley is now doing the same thing with the Conservative Digest and is building a broad base. The difference is that Conservative Digest is doing it well. Robert Welch would be spinning in his grave if he knew that his American Opinion, in which he had spent so much time and energy, had been turned into something that looked like it had been clobbered together by a high school journalism class. While the magazine has improved considerably since the early issues, the whole situation remains a disaster.

First of all, the money taken in for lifetime subscriptions has been spent and is gone with the wind. No money was set aside as a fulfillment reserve. The money raised from selling long-term advertising has also been spent. The assets are gone and all which became renewable in April, May, and June, represented the future survival of the magazine. The results of Wrecker's renewal campaign have been described as an unmitigated disaster. Right in the middle of the renewal campaign, the magazine was changed to a fortnightly with no adjustment in price. People who had subscriptions to Review of the News or American Opinion at \$15 a year (complete with a book bonus) were being asked to renew at \$39 a year (with no bonus). Wrecker is truly a marketing marvel.

and wave at the Tsar as he was paraded around the country by train. The Tsar was thereby led to believe that everything was just great.

And, of course, the membership of the John Birch Society wants to believe that this is true. We don't blame them. People who have put years of blood, sweat, tears, and treasure into a movement do not want to face up to the truth that it is being destroyed from the inside. The staff wants to believe because it is their job. They pass on the Belmont line to the members. Anyone who tells the truth about what is really going on is denounced as a destroyer. It is a classic case of "shoot the messenger" because you don't like the message. We're sorry, but the truth is the truth, and with Wrecker in charge never the twain shall meet.

Sad as it is that we need to tell you these facts, it would be a tragedy if we could not save the Society even at this late date. What can be done? Birchers must immediately begin writing and telephoning Belmont, urging that Barker resign in the best interests of the Society. What is needed is a distinguished national leader of proven character and administrative ability. I am told that Governor Meldrim Thomson will be a speaker at the June Council Meeting. Although I have not consulted with him, I believe he has the standing and the leadership capacity to do the job at which A. Clifford Barker has failed.

Regards,

Gary Allen

P.S. GET BARKER out!

Editor Jeffrey St. John, who did not join the Society until his appointment as editor, admittedly does not believe in the existence of the Conspiracy. (How would you like to run that one passed Robert Welch?) St. John, who receives \$62,000 a year, is an absentee editor who stays at his home in rural Virginia. He is openly letting people know that he is looking for another job. Now, Managing Editor Jack McManus has been made a scapegoat for the unmitigated disaster of the renewal campaign. He has been fired as Managing Editor, along with his assistant, Bill Fall. The new editor of the magazine will be Gary Benoit, described by those who have worked with him as dedicated and a hard worker, but a total fish out of water when it comes to the monumental job of creating a magazine. It's like asking a businessman to perform brain surgery. Editing a magazine is a task for which you have to be trained.

2. During the reign of Wrecker, Bunker Hunt, Bill Cies, Kenny Volk, and Dr. Tom Parker have all resigned from the Council. They've all given a no vote on the calibre of Barker's leadership.

3. The first to leave the staff after Wrecker took charge was the brilliant attorney, Gary Handy. Handy had served as Robert Welch's personal assistant for fourteen years. Privately, Handy reveals that after only two months he could no longer take Barker's arrogance. Barker, he says, will not listen or take advice from anybody, and is impossible to work with. Handy moved his family to San Diego and started a highly successful law practice. Also involved in the exodus from Belmont was Alan Davidson, who ran the book shipping department, and his wife Joyce, who worked in the accounting department. Next to go was head of accounting Charlie Humphries and his wife Sally, who headed the American Speakers Bureau and the Ad Hoc Committees, was squeezed out. Now, we have the departure of McManus, of Fall, and President Tom Hill, who had worked for the Society for twenty-five years. Hill's departure was not even mentioned in the Bulletin when he "retired"; the fifty-year-old Hill is reported to have retired for health reasons. He was probably sick and tired at what he saw going on under Wrecker. We suspect that he didn't want to be on the Titanic when it went down, or be blamed as the weakest member of the Birch Depression.

Who is next? Who is left? We'll bet Chuck Armour is very, very nervous these days. It looks as if Wrecker is systematically wiping out anyone who has any institutional memory of the way Robert Welch ran the John Birch Society.

Management is now a two-man show--Wrecker and Charlie Everett. Everett has great poise and personality (that is pronounced "golden personality"). He has been characterized by Joe Hehrten as the Director of Malignment. Everett is a first-class later and fanatic. He does not discriminate; he loathes everybody. And virtually everybody that knows him returns the favor. One could hardly pick a more devastating disaster to run a field organization. In another time and another place, Everett would have no trouble being a Nazi or a Communist.

4. The treatment of Mrs. Robert Welch by Wrecker can only be

described as despicable. Not only was the beloved wife of our founder harassed from her job, she has been the target of malicious lies spread that she is senile and that she had constant disagreements with her husband. Mrs. Welch is one of the most magnificent women in the history of our country. She helped her husband write the Blue Book and was his helpline and confidante throughout his life. Because of the malicious prevarications that Wrecker and Everett are spreading about Mrs. Welch, they ought to be horse-whipped. Even if she were not the magnificent lady that she is, she deserves revered treatment as the widow of our founder. Because of the way in which he has treated Mrs. Welch, you may get the impression that if Wrecker were on fire I wouldn't spit on him. That's not true.

5. The treatment of Cathy McDonald has been no better than that of Mrs. Welch. The A.C.L.U. is suing Cathy McDonald, trying to leave our martyred leader's wife and her small children in poverty. Scott Stanley was given a written ultimatum from Wrecker saying that if he helped raise money for Cathy's defense, he should resign as editor of American Opinion and Review of the News. Being a man of the highest integrity and honor, Scott resigned. For displaying this kind of character, Scott today is maligned by the staff and it is claimed that he is conspiring to destroy the John Birch Society. The truth is exactly the opposite. He has begged Scott to release his ultimatum letter from Wrecker, but Scott has so far refused to do so because he does not want to hurt the Society. Although his concern is certainly for the membership, not the current "leadership."

6. The Birch Society is now out of the publishing and book-selling business. The Belmont warehouse has been closed and the remaining inventory turned over to a fulfillment house. In typical Wrecker Orwellian tactics, this is presented to the membership as another step forward. Can you imagine the Society being out of the publishing and book distribution business? Again, Robert Welch would be spinning like a top in his grave.

7. The field staff of the Society was imploding. For example, on Easter Sunday five coordinators in the Southeast were fired in what has come to be referred to as the Easter Morning Massacre. What a wonderful Easter present! "Hello, Happy Easter! You're fired!" They couldn't wait one more day. It almost seems as if when they let a coordinator go, they do it in the most brutal and callous way possible. The coordinator is notified that "for the good of the Society and the Americanist Movement, your job is terminated." There are no gold watches or testimonial dinners. Remember, these coordinators gave up other careers and made financial sacrifices to take the job as coordinator. This is real dedication. Then, to be terminated in such a cruel manner is unconscionable. This is not an isolated instance. Ask any former coordinator that you know.

Wrecker is following the Potemkin strategy, mixed with a few touches of Orwell. Potemkin, you may recall, was the Tsar's minister who tried to convince the Tsar that everything was wonderful in Russia before the revolution. Potemkin created towns which were nothing more than false-front Hollywood movie sets, gave the local peasants new clothes and paid them to cheer

12/30/85 = Gary North also joins the chorus of JBS members who pronounced the JBS "dead" as a result of their differences regarding how the JBS should be run.

Gary North
P. O. Box 1999
Taylor, Texas 75711
December 30, 1985

Cliff Barker
American Opinion
395 Concord
Belmont, MA 01278

Dear Mr. Barker:

I note from Mr. Dunn's enclosure that you are photocopying my previous private letter to you and passing it around. This illustrates the way you run the JBS: private communications become public documents, while public documents (AMERICAN OPINION, REVIEW OF THE NEWS) become private memoranda.

For some reason, I'm led to write you another letter. It is probably wasted ink. This time I give you permission to pass my letter around. I hope you do.

The JBS is dead. You killed it. Or maybe it was dead anyway, and you are simply the undertaker. Perhaps you can do something in these last few weeks to leave something positive behind. It depends upon your moral character. But the JBS is gone. You will either be remembered as the faceless bureaucrat who killed it (yes, even if Tom Hill is an undisciplined co-conspirator), or else the man who at least left something behind for others to use in producing a replacement.

You can, of course, tell a tiny handful of remaining supporters that everything is "just fine" at the JBS. "Never better!" That's the feedback I got from a half dozen of my subscribers. I want to call your bluff, Cliff. The game is just about over. The ninth inning is in progress, and you're behind 20 to 2.

When Mrs. Welch's letter hits the members next week, you will find it difficult to raise enough money to pay the light bill, let alone pay for the next issue of THE NEW AMERICAN. Mrs. Welch's letter will finish off whatever remains.

You are apparently trying to play that most popular game among failed bureaucrats, "find the scapegoat." I have become one of them. Well, you won't have Gary North to kick around much longer. You will have to take on Mrs. Welch. Want to try that one? That Marian Welch, she was never really dedicated to the JBS. No, sir, she was secretly a Connie Plant. Furthermore, she owned Chase Manhattan stock. She's acting just like Bill Buckley. She's just a nattering nabob of negativism. Etc., etc." No, Cliff, that one won't play in Peoria. Neither will

When an organization which has called forth years of sacrifice and dedication from its supporters finally goes the way of all flesh, a few of those who poured their lives into it find it impossible psychologically to admit that their institutional dream has been shattered. You can keep their support for a while. But eventually the demise of the organization demonstrates what the critics had said was in fact true. This does precious little good for the critics, who are resented in retrospect even when their predictions prove true, but it doesn't help the clerks who oversaw the organization's demise.

You can always compare your critics with Mr. Welch's former critics, but there are fundamental differences: Mr. Welch had a competent staff beneath him, an army of followers behind him, and Mrs. Welch at his side. What do you have? Tom Hill.

You have lost Gary Allen, Scott Stanley, John Rees, Susan Huck, Bill Hoar, and Alan Stang. Then, just to make the devastation total, you failed to keep Medford Evans. Yet you and your staff pretend that this hasn't gutted the JBS, throat to groin. You lost your entire writing staff, in an organization that was (at the end) probably 80% publishing and 20% discussion group. And you think the world won't know? You think you can drive out your writers of 20 years and still meet the payroll? Hereby would be better able to abandon chocolate.

In short, bureaucrats don't make organizations; they bury organizations.

I have previously kept my real opinions to myself. It is unnecessary for me to hang out the dirty washing of the JBS, especially since the washermen who are in charge are about to be exposed as full-time chimney sweeps. Whatever you think my one brief paragraph in REMNANT REVIEW accomplished in swamping your punctured rowboat, please understand that Mrs. Welch's letter dwarfs my puny efforts. I tossed a snowball. Mrs. Welch dropped a 20-megaton bomb.

So do me a favor. Forget about me. I'm not your problem any more. Your problem is an empty bank account that is not going to get filled up with subscription money from THE NEW AMERICAN.

If you are an honorable man, you will swallow your pride, admit your mistakes, and assist Scott Stanley and the other men who built the JBS in their attempt to start something else that might work. If you are a dishonorable man, you will continue to search for scapegoats, jam up the dispersal of the assets (especially the research files), and generally destroy whatever is left of Mr. Welch's work. I hope you are an honorable man. It's one thing to be a man of limited talents who gets called

the tried and true, "Poor Mrs. Welch; she's senile!" routine. Her letter will allow the JBS to receive a decent burial, and thereby kill off the parasites who are desperately clinging to the cadaver. Your game is just about over.

What the history of the JBS illustrates is that an organization cannot continue to thrive if it loses its original vision, unless it finds an even more powerful vision. But bureaucrats are visionless folks, and they will kill off anything that is weak. At best, they can stabilize a living organism; if it is dying, they will suck it dry. That's what your staff did.

Incredibly, a few of the faithful still hang on, pretending that nothing has changed, pretending that 25 years of effort cannot be overcome in three years by a staff full of certifiable incompetents. But it can happen. It happens all the time. When THE NEW AMERICAN stops surviving for three weeks or a month, the cadaver will at last begin to stink. "Let's pretend" is a game for children. It cannot put money in the bank account forever.

The fact is, the bureaucratic game of "let's do the safe thing," meaning the centrally directed thing, invariably produces bankruptcy. The JBS has not created a new program in years. The Belmont bureaucracy strangled everything. This is why MacDonald was determined to replace you. I think that if he had returned from Korea and had gone ahead with his plans to fire you and Hill and your underlings, the JBS would have survived. At least it would have had a chance to survive. But he never came back.

I have noticed that the JBS under your direction has done nothing to help Kathie MacDonald in her fight against the AGU. I notice also that THE NEW AMERICAN has not run a single article on the Conspiracy since its inception. I think others have also noticed. That's why it won't survive the winter of '86. Without Otto Scott, THE NEW AMERICAN has now become a threat to anyone who reads it while sleeping in bed. If this was your doing, you're suicidal. If it wasn't, you had better override Mr. St. John's editorial decision to drop him and get him back, pronto. Let him edit THE NEW AMERICAN.

Are you promoting Larry Abraham's CALL IT CONSPIRACY? Have you recommended it to American Opinion Bookstores? Of course not. No more talk about the Conspiracy in the halls of Belmont! You have silently tossed away 20 years of JBS research and publishing, and have sold the "new JBS" on some deficient 1957 anti-Communist discussion group. That won't play in Peoria, either. You can fool a few of the long-term supporters some of the time, but you can't fool them forever.

I don't think you can fool them through next April.

upon to do more than he can accomplish; it's another thing to destroy the possibility of something new rising from the ashes of the carcass.

Barring your active assistance, just go away. Soon. You don't have much time left anyway. Renewal money for THE NEW AMERICAN won't be there, even if you can somehow make it to next August. Clear out now, while there is still time left to make an orderly transition.

Sincerely yours,

John Welch

By September 1986, Mrs. Welch was telling even the Associated Press of her displeasure with the new leadership of the JBS [See 9/1/86 *NY Times* article below]

JOHN BIRCH GROUP HAS MONEY WOES

Makes First Wide Appeal for
Funds to Help Ease Deficit
Said to Be \$9 Million

BELMONT, Mass., Aug. 30 (AP) —
The John Birch Society, the group that
has crusaded for 25 years against big
government and what it views as a
Soviet Communist conspiracy, has
come upon hard times.

The group is struggling with a \$9
million deficit and for the first time in
its history, asking for financial help.
In addition, the question of how much
to criticize President Reagan has
created an internal battle that has
torn the ranks of the society's
leader, Robert F. Welch, against the
group's new leadership.

"I have nothing to do with the soci-
ety," said Richard P. Welch, who is in
his 80's and living in a Victorian
home in Weston, near this Boston sub-
urb where her husband had his soci-
ety's headquarters. "The people who
are running it are not running it what
I started out to be in 1958."

Mrs. Welch, whose husband once ac-
cused President Eisenhower of being
"a dedicated conscious agent of the
Communist conspiracy," says her
criticisms include the way the new
Birch magazine, The New American,
regularly attacks Mr. Reagan.

In an August issue, for example, The
New American said Mr. Reagan had ac-
knowledged the crimes of the United States
military's policy in Vietnam: "making
efforts to make the average American
efforts to make the average American
efforts to make the average American."

When her husband died last year,
Mrs. Welch was assistant managing
editor of a newspaper, a weekly
founded by her husband. The publica-
tion was dropped nine months after his
death for the new weekly, which cost
\$100,000 to start.

She said her son,
employees who because his new presi-
dent in 1965 and the organization was
the same as when Mr. Welch founded
it, the new magazine is continuing the
damage record caused by his mem-
ber, "to make the average American
efforts to make the average American."

The number of members of the soci-
ety has dropped to about 10,000 from
50,000 Mr. Welch said. And the mem-
bership of the society itself is "several
times of thousands, not more than
50,000," said a spokesman.

In May, the society made an effort
to raise for money in a letter to members.
According to financial reports the
society had filed with the Manches-
ester Attorney General's office, last
year of its income in 1979 rose to \$3.1
million in 1980, down from \$2.1
million in 1979, down from \$2.1
million in 1978.

2000 and afterward

MAJOR CONTROVERSIES WITHIN THE JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY

In the spring of 2005, a major controversy erupted within the senior echelons of the Birch Society over the methods used to install new leadership within the Society.

One long-time JBS member, Don Fotheringham, created a website for internal dissidents to share their thoughts over what they interpreted as a "*coup*" which occurred within the JBS that violated the mechanisms originally created by JBS founder Robert Welch for selecting new leadership for the Society.

I copy Mr. Fotheringham's explanatory letter about the reasons for his website below.

NOTE: Some of the internal URL links within the messages appearing below may not be operative because the Fotheringham website is no longer operating. However, readers may use the Internet Archive website's "*Wayback Machine*" search feature to see saved copies of the original webpages. [WAYBACK MACHINE](#)

What's this site all about?

This website was first established to communicate my concern over the undermining of The John Birch Society, which began covertly in about April 2005, and culminated in a successful coup on October 21, 2005.

In a previous posting, I had stated that I was going to take this site down, because the outcome of the events described had long since been decided. However, so many requested that I continue to make this site available that I have decided to do so.

Several years ago I set up the "donfoth.com" website for the purpose of urging council members of the John Birch Society to: 1) Restore the monolithic structure and 2) Reinstate the Executive Committee as it was prior to the takeover. The Robert Welch method of appointment was more than a mere formality, it was the glue that held us intact and kept us on track for nearly half a century.

Few members of the council saw fit to answer my pleadings, nor did they seem to realize the fatal consequences of dumping the unique system created by Mr. Welch.

This surprised me because I think they are good men dedicated to saving the country; therefore I can only presume they never really understood the organizational structure or the wisdom behind it. Moreover, I grant the council another excuse: They must have had no first-hand knowledge of the poor work record of those who carried out the takeover.

The council apparently assumed the rebels were trying to save their country, never realizing they were merely saving their jobs. The least productive men, those who organized the coup, now run the Society – the ultimate irony.

In their effort to save their hides, the new team fired half of the field staff and hired two public relations experts. This left many chapters at a standstill while creating the illusion of a better public image. Consequently the vigor of the JBS has been reduced to appearances at the expense of fighting the enemy. Yes, *The New American* looks great, but have you seen the word Conspiracy in its pages lately?

Can a chapterless JBS recruit men and women for the struggle ahead? Not likely. Chapters are the main resource that recruits new "pullers at the oars," and the *only* organized opposition that threatens the highly organized Conspiracy. Mr. Welch taught us that when the action is limited to a headquarters staff – even with thousands of such organizations – very little is accomplished. For this reason he founded the JBS where concerted chapter action brings results.

After these past few years of smiles, hearts, and flowers, veteran JBS members must be wondering who on earth remains to name and engage the world's most deadly enemy. In my opinion, the dynamics for such a task are not likely to come from those who took over the Society. That's because the focus on recruitment is lax, chapter building is nil, and the damage done to the succession structure will prevent new leaders with backbone from rising to the top.

Look at the JBS today. Where is the recruitment of young new members, with the potential to become volunteer leaders, staff and even council members? Look at the head table at a Council Dinner. Most of the “new” council appointees – Lloyd Bailey, Bunker Hunt, Paul Leithart, Dom Odorizzi, and Hid Welch – are at least as old as I am (81)! We sort of grew up together, but at least I am grown up enough to know a trench coat from a tuxedo.

Robert Welch often said, “We mean business every step of the way.” Don’t you think he would be appalled by what is now happening? While the freedom battle rages, members of the organization he founded seem to be content with belonging to a nostalgia society (the 50th anniversary, notwithstanding).

If exposing the Conspiracy is not our first objective, the country will never be saved. Those who lead the JBS seem to place a priority on garnering personal influence among prominent “respectable” conservatives. Those with that mindset will never have the backbone to name the enemy, take the gaff, or lead us to victory.

This whole ordeal has been hard for me. I value highly the friends and members with whom I have worked for many years. It’s with no small degree of hurt that some of my best friends have turned against me. It has been a high price for me to pay – a painful choice between principle and personality.

But despite an amazing barrage of bitterness coming from the least expected quarters, I honestly hold no ill will – disappointment? yes – but no bad feelings for those who have unfairly judged me or spoken evil of me. I knew what steps had to be taken, I took those steps, and I am at peace with my Maker.

And I am not yet finished with the fight for freedom. As an old man I am blessed with a little experience in the business of defending our Constitution, and the Lord has kept me alive, I think, to work for my country many more years than I had anticipated.

Please understand that I did not leave the John Birch Society – the Society left me. The organization died the day it lied. The field staff lost its way when it undermined the one man whose only sin was to require more of them. I feel certain that many members of the council now realize they have been had, for the incompetents in whom they put their trust can no longer blame their failures on their leaders – they *are* the leaders!

Fortunately, the former executives of the JBS are alive and resolute. Vance Smith, Tom Gow, Wayne Rickert, Walt Ruckel, and Keith Van Buskirk are the most principled, hard-working patriots the Society has seen since Robert Welch. They stand firmly behind the lessons of liberty espoused by that 20th century genius. And on that proven platform they have dug in their heels and launched the Freedom First Society (FFS), a no-nonsense dagger in the heart of the Conspiracy.

We are organized to restore, under a new name, the structure and focus that gave force to the former JBS. It is a singular honor for me to stand with the former CEO, Vice President, and key members of the former Executive Committee in this reconstructed, monolithic, strictly Robert Welch-style organization.

I urge you to visit our new website, www.freedomfirstsociety.org, then obtain a copy of our powerful new book [*Organize for Victory!*](#), in which its authors Vance Smith and Tom Gow have brilliantly summarized the cause and cure of our nation's ills.

If you are looking for experienced leaders, clear objectives, and hope for America – and if you are serious about getting down to business – please accept this invitation to come on line and get on board.

May the Lord bless each of you and help us save this (still) wonderful United States.

Don Fotheringham

Another controversy erupted within the JBS over comments which were being made by JBS President, John McManus, before Catholic organizations. Several senior leaders of the JBS thought McManus was expressing anti-semitic sentiments in his speeches. The only Jewish member of the Council at that time, David Eisenberg, sent McManus a letter asking him to clarify his remarks. McManus's initial reply was not satisfactory to Eisenberg.

The following March 22, 2006 letter from G. Vance Smith (former CEO of the JBS) to all members of the JBS National Council explains how senior leaders within the Birch Society interpreted the problem:

[03-22-06 letter to JBS National Council by G. Vance Smith](#)

<https://web.archive.org/web/20160215132106/http://donfoth.com/qvs3-21-06.html>

**G. Vance Smith
2 Systems Drive
Appleton, WI 54914
Ph. 920-733-5000**

March 22, 2006

To Members of The Council of The John Birch Society (Copies to: JBS Building Contributors, JBS Field Staff)

Dear Gentlemen,

Because of the recent exchange of letters between Art Thompson and Wayne Rickert, I am sending this letter to those who have received that correspondence.

Please, take the time to read this letter and to study the enclosures (available upon request). Try, with me, to understand Art's motives in first attacking Jack and then later undermining me and eventually the Executive Committee. It should be very helpful to all genuinely interested in understanding what has been going on, and why.

There is so very much at stake. I will present to you material that in the past only the Executive Committee, the JBS Board of Directors, and a few in leadership of the Society ever needed to know. It was my hope that there would never be a need for this material to be distributed, but, if the Society is to be saved, the time has come.

Art's Sudden About-face

On March 8, 2006, I received a phone call from Rusty Barlow, a longtime member of The John Birch Society in Idaho. Rusty said he had just returned from a meeting with Art Thompson and Tom Rice. During the visit, Rusty asked Art plainly:

“Art, do you feel comfortable with the statements Jack McManus has made about the Jews?”

Art Thompson replied:

“I don't have any problems at all with what Jack said. Vance Smith has taken Jack's words out of context to make Jack appear to be anti-Semitic. He has taken video presentations by Jack and linked small clips, again out of context, and threatened to use the video against Jack and the Society.”

This reflects an interesting change in Art's thinking about Jack. During the past six years, Art has continually expressed serious concern over what Art has referred to as Jack's “*anti-Semitic dialog*.” In fact, it was Art Thompson who first brought the matter to my attention.

In the late spring of 2000, Art Thompson approached me with information he had received concerning Jack's speaking activities to non-Birch religious groups. Because Jack had already sent copies of his speeches, tapes, and videos to selected JBS members (Joe Maurer having been one of them), Art was certain that Jack's material was now being broadcast far and wide. Art expressed great concern that, if not checked, Jack would surely destroy the Society. Art then arranged for me to receive a number of videos, brochures, and related material that would prove his case.

Later, on October 22, 2000, Art sent me a faxed memo from his home in Washington wherein he outlined various strategies that could be used to deal with Jack. In that memo, discussed in more detail below, Art even proposed that we get Jack to retire because of Jack's expressed views on Jews and Masons.

Despite his grave concerns about Jack's activities, Art would later hypocritically change his position on Jack. Why? The reason seems obvious: Jack, as a key member of the Board of Incorporators, was essential to Art's aspirations to be CEO. In an effort to appeal to Jack's over-sized ego, Art must have let Jack know that he would once again enjoy the title of President if he used his position as an Incorporator to have Vance removed.

Jack's Version:

Jack McManus, now on the spot, has responded to questions from members about his speeches to religious gatherings with a story similar to Art's latest denials. In a January letter to a member, rather than providing the member with the requested copy of Jack's speech, Jack attempted to dismiss the whole episode in part with these words, ***“In the talk, I made passing reference to many viewpoints that had always been held by the Catholic Church, one of which is that adherence to Judaism is deadly as far as eternal salvation is concerned. This, of course, is a view shared by Christians of numerous other denominations. But it is not a position ever taken by The John Birch Society which is not a religious***

organization.”

In other words, Jack is now suggesting that he has done nothing wrong at all. At a religious conference, he merely repeated a commonly held religious viewpoint, not necessarily even advocating it as his own. So we might ask, what rational Birchers could object — if that’s all they were told?

Time for the Truth:

There’s an old saying, *“If you don’t quit lying about me, I’m going to start telling the truth about you.”* In the face of convincing, but misleading denials from Jack and Art, it is time to tell the whole, incontrovertible truth. For I believe, as I wrote you earlier, that this issue demands your immediate attention. What I am going to describe is documented in several letters, documents, audio and videotapes, but I will enclose with this letter only a few items. All of them, however, are available to you upon request.

Before we go there, however, let’s try to understand just what it was that John F. McManus had been accused of, what the former JBS leadership team had done to deal with their concerns about the matter, and whether the situation constituted a serious concern relative to the future of the Society.

David Eisenberg Speaks:

Jack is also circulating a letter written by David Eisenberg to Walt Ruckel. In it, David shows his forgiving nature by stating:

“Some incorrect accusations have been made concerning the apparent anti-Semitism of John McManus. Please be assured that, as a Jew, I have a long time ago satisfied myself that statements made by John have been mis-interpreted by some folks who wish to lay the claim of anti-Semitism on John’s head. I have had considerable correspondence with John on this subject, and find the claims to be without merit. In fact, John did revise that one speech to my satisfaction, and we have remained very good friends mutually dedicated to The John Birch Society and the task before us.”

Two main points in David’s letter:

1. Yes, David was correct when he stated there are *“some folks who wish to lay the claim of anti-Semitism on John’s head.”* And, in fact, David Eisenberg was the first to do so when he stated in his postscript to his July 19, 2000 letter to Jack: ***“How can we say that JBS is not anti-Semitic when the president speaks thus?”***
2. David also remarked, *“In fact, John did revise that one speech to my satisfaction... .”* Well, even for friendship’s sake, getting Jack to revise *“that one speech”* does not alter the fact that Jack wrote, spoke, and videotaped those statements that have been distributed by Jack and his friends at these conferences. Moreover, getting caught and being forced to change one’s words in one speech, does not mean Jack’s beliefs or proclivities have changed in the least.

On July 27, 2000, David wrote to me, and, as you can see, his opinions were very different. Below are some of his thoughts:

“Mr. McManus says in his letter of July 25th, ‘...*I hope that no harm comes to the Society because of my ill-considered outburst.*’ I suspect that the speech was put down on paper and used by the speaker at the March 24th engagement. If this is true, then, the ‘*ill-considered outburst*’ was a planned event. This bothers me, since the implication is that those words represent true feelings with respect to Jews and the Catholic Church as viewed by Mr. McManus.

“Hoping that no damage has been done to the Society doesn’t solve the problem which has been created. While I don’t know for sure, I do suspect that damage has been done, and the results not yet realized. We are responsible for our acts (unless our name is Clinton). Mr. McManus is responsible for any damage coming as a result of this unfortunate speech....

“But, this ‘*outburst*’ projected from his being, to a gathering of his co-religionists, causes me to feel that irrational anti-Jewish thoughts are a part of the man when he addresses attacks against the Catholic Church. None of which is a part of The John Birch Society.

“What makes this most difficult to accept, is the fact that he is the President of The John Birch Society, and no matter where he may speak, he is recognized as a spokesman for the Society. In this position, he has no personal statements to make, even if he would first set up some disclaimer.

“The letter of July 25th contains no assurance that this ‘*ill-considered outburst*’ won’t happen again.”

In another letter to Jack dated August 18, 2000, David continues to try and settle his feelings toward Jack. I quote:

“You refer to the ‘*ill-considered outburst.*’ Jack, you composed your speech with those words of associating Jews with Masons. I don’t feel that this was an ‘*outburst,*’ but rather a prepared part of your speech. Was it ‘*ill-considered*’ because of your position with The John Birch Society, or was it ‘*ill-considered*’ with respect to Jews? My feeling is that you claim ‘*ill-considered*’ reflecting your position with the Society. This leaves me to think that your, sometimes irrational, defense of the Catholic Church, is no different from the manner in which the Anti-defamation League (ADL) ‘*defends*’ Judaism; in a manner less than true....

“However, I cannot understand the ‘outburst’ unless there is some very real anti-semitism within your character. ...

“If harm comes to the Society as a result of your ‘ill-considered’ comments, I shall be very unhappy. I have had to explain to all too many of my co-religionists for too many years, that JBS is not a danger to us, but rather a defense against our assured destruction. You, in this speech, have harmed my credibility. If there has been mass distribution of this speech, I would be afraid of the results.”

Unfortunately, there was more than this one speech – there were several. Even Art Thompson points out in his memo (which I will describe in more detail later) that Jack McManus had been giving talks such as these for at least a decade. The most damage done by Jack was in his speeches, “*Know Thine Enemy,*” delivered at the Saint Joseph Forum, and “*Conspiracy Against the Catholic Church,*” delivered at the Saint Benedict Center. And there may have been other venues unknown to us where Jack presented his speeches and combined his *ostensible* Church views with his Birch views.

Regardless of whether Jack is truly anti-Semitic in his heart, he has an uncontrollable, irresponsible ego and has often had to be restrained from speaking before groups with whom The John Birch Society would not want to be associated. The danger to the Society is the same in any event.

When Tom Gow, Jack, and I were given our positions to preside over the Society in June 1991, The Executive Committee counseled Jack about his

ego and cautioned him to carefully weigh his words. Some of Jack's words in the past, thoughtlessly expressed, had offended La Rita Quinn (organizer of the very successful Colorado Rocky Mountain Rally) and others and had caused the Society embarrassment. Even though Tom Hill had cautioned us to never make Jack president, the Executive Committee decided to take the risk. While Clyde Lewis, Joe Grinnan, Phil Binzel, Wayne Rickert and Walt Ruckel wanted to give Jack the leadership opportunity, they were also aware of his tendency to "speak out of school." Unfortunately, Jack let them down.

Jack Wouldn't Stop

Moving on, dozens — if not hundreds — of hours went into trying to work through all this with Jack. Tom Gow invested more time than any of us in corresponding and sending lengthy memos to Jack in an effort to reason with him. And finally, because we were still disappointed in Jack's unwillingness to take responsibility for his actions, we put in file a lengthy letter to Jack reprimanding him in the matter. That letter of July 31, 2000 was signed by Tom Gow and me, and it was accompanied by a letter signed by JBS board members, Gary Benoit and Jim Toft, attesting to their concerns.

We were in hopes that this was all finally settled and behind us. But the matter didn't stay resolved very long. Much to our consternation, in the spring of 2002, Jack once again allowed himself to be put on the agenda as a speaker at the St. Benedict Center where several of his previous speeches had been videotaped.

When this was brought to my attention — and I believe once more by Art Thompson — I met with Jack and confronted him. He apologized for breaking the trust, but assured me that he had reviewed the program and was certain this time that no speeches would be given on the topic of the "*Jewish*" conspiracy. Nevertheless, as Jack had already recognized the need to distance himself from this group knowing full well the "guilt-by-association" consequences, I asked him to cancel his appearance. He said that would cause him to lose face and would be too difficult for him to do, so we decided on a business trip out of the country (to Canada) to provide him with a respectable excuse.

Nevertheless, that was the last straw. I sent off a letter dated July 3, 2002 to Jack. The Executive Committee, which included two traditional Catholics, Joe Grinnan and Dr. Phil Binzel — one of Jack's staunchest defenders — along with Executive Committee members Rickert, Ruckel, and Van Buskirk, and JBS officers, agreed that Jack could not be reined in and that action must be taken. It was decided that we had no choice other than to quietly move Jack to the backburner and to eventually remove his title as president of the Society. That, of course, finally happened in October of 2003.

Now, there are those who are saying, "*So, Jack made a little mistake. He fixed all that a long time ago.*" Well, Jack has not fixed anything and he has not changed in the least. Again in 2005, Jack spoke to these groups — the same groups that in the past had featured, besides others of the same ilk, anti-Jewish author/lecturer Paul Fisher. And again, after all the trouble he had caused in the past, Jack did not seek permission from anyone to do so. Jack would soon learn of the secret coup taking place and undoubtedly realized that, for his part in it, he would likely be president again and no longer held to account. For this time — with the all-powerful title of "Chairman of the Board of Incorporators" — he would report to no one.

Art Thompson Exposes Jack McManus' "*Anti-Semitic dialog*":

You have already received from Wayne Rickert the memo Art Thompson wrote to me (dated October 22, 2000) outlining the possible ramifications of Jack's actions. In it Art lays out possible scenarios of repercussions from Jack's speeches. And he comments about what might happen if any of

the following: Alan Stang, Joseph Maurer, Richmond Weathers, Don Julius, Marty Ohlson (Art's new re-hire), all dissidents from the past, were to link up with Morris Dees and join in on the attack.

Under "Possibilities," Art Thompson lists:

"McManus launches the attack.

1. Joins Maurer
2. Stays "independent but goes to incorporators"

(Wow! Art obviously knew of Jack's incorporators "trump card" — a card that would later cause great harm to the Society. As you now know, it was played by three of the five incorporators fully aware of Jack's anti-Jewish remarks.)

Under the heading of "*What do we do?*" Art suggests:

Regardless of the direction, most of the below should be done ASAP.

A. Put on a video short clips of the various speeches by McManus.

1. Show how he is introduced. If by "Berchman" then the fact that he refers in the body of the speech that he refers to himself as *representing* The JBS. (Does this talk represent the opinion of The JBS?)

B. Transcribe same plus any written material pertinent.

C. Document the attempt to get McManus to do the right thing. (By you & T. Gow.)

1. In the process, point out the subterfuge of St. Joseph's being the first incident. It wasn't. It has been going on for at least 3 ½ years, at least with the anti-Semitic dialog.
2. Point out McManus has for well over 10 years been out speaking for and to Catholic organizations as the President of The JBS with most of this info on our nickel. (It has not been uncommon that he arranges these talks while in the area while on JBS business let alone the special trips taken to do the above – to private individuals at first.)

D. Try to get McManus to resign as a retirement move. He is already collecting social security.

There is no question what Art felt about Jack's "*anti-Semitic dialog.*" And, of course, this "*looking out for the Society*" ingratiated him with us and helped him secure an office in the Appleton headquarters. Art would later, and only Heaven knows his motivation, orchestrate a leftist-styled smear campaign against me and eventually even against the Executive Committee.

Art Thompson pulls others into a smear campaign and coup:

The procedure was textbook. Art took leaders and managers aside to sow seeds of discontent. The Bush years, like the Reagan years in the 1980s, were proving very difficult for the Society. Because membership, chapter, and financial results were down considerably, there was a great deal of stress in the organization. Staff leaders in the field and in the office were expected to implement solid management principles to ensure the best results possible. And, needless to say, as the CEO, I was feeling much of that stress and was applying much of the pressure – not always a real nice guy. Then, Art taking other managers aside (office and field), was able to pull negative comments from them. He convinced several that essential management systems were really “micro-management” on the part of Vance. Then, when he was successful in getting some to commiserate with him, he would pass those comments along to others, especially his long-time friend Cliff Wasem.

Cliff, who two years earlier had unsuccessfully campaigned for “*Art for President*,” then apparently spent dozens of hours over several months lining up the opposition to Vance Smith with Council members and with what he referred to as “senior staff.” As recently as two weeks before this letter was written, Cliff was still bragging about his efforts to “*pull this off*” by lining up the opposition to Vance and the Executive Committee.

Early on, Executive Committee member Art Crino was pulled into the fray. Then Art Crino, behind the backs of his fellow Executive Committee members, retailed his allegations to all who would listen. He [admitted to field staff](#) member Bryan Turner that he had been engaged secretly in this effort since April 2005. Then, realizing that he had misspoken, he told Bryan Turner he would deny the statement he had made earlier. In other words, five months before any of this came to the attention of his fellow Executive Committee members or myself, Art Crino was working to remove us. His reward, as you well know, was to be elected by Jack and his band of incorporators as “*Chairman of the Board of Directors*.”

(We have been told that the removal of Art Crino from the Executive Committee is what convinced JBS Incorporator John Fall to allow Jack to hold his nefarious incorporators meeting on October 21st. I find myself scratching my head over this issue. Would any of you, if you were an Executive Committee member, like Wayne, Walt, or Keith, be okay about a colleague on your committee working to subvert the decisions of, and undermine confidence in, the authority of that committee? I would hope not. Would you want him removed from your committee? I would hope so.)

As with any Leftist smear campaign to topple a government, the spotlight was all on the alleged abuses and inadequacies of G. Vance Smith. I suspect there was little investigation or discussion of the inadequacies of the proposed alternatives. Mr. Welch would have been appalled, I believe, at this approach to choosing the Society’s leader.

Let’s look a little closer at the rewards to those who led the campaign. As mentioned, Art Crino was made “*Chairman of the Board*,” and Cliff Wasem was elevated to a now-emasculated Executive Committee. And two of Art Thompson’s struggling fundraisers, both in their 70s, were promoted. One, for his part in the coup, was appointed a full vice president of fundraising, while the other, who had been reassigned because he failed earlier in the job, was again appointed as Director of Field Activities. Obviously, leadership in both the field and fundraising departments is essential to the Society’s success.

So, the question is, what are you as members of the Council going to do about these problems?

Only you can use your influence with other Council members to force Jack to resign from all leadership positions — especially as a member of the JBS Board of Incorporators. He has certainly proven himself unworthy to hold that position. Only you can put pressure on Art Thompson to resign.

Only you can insist that Art Crino and Cliff Wasem be removed from the Council and any elected positions they presently hold.

And, only you can insist on what Don Fotheringham is advocating — that the Executive Committee be exonerated and reinstituted exactly the way

it was in mid-October 2005. Then, allow the Executive Committee, in conference with the Council members who were serving in that period of time, to hear any legitimate complaints and deal with those matters that, over the years, they've proven themselves so capable of handling.

Council members, first of all, must be good Birchers, and you are the Council members. You hold a high and important trust with the general membership. You are not "window dressing" as some have stated, you were appointed to be "pullers at the oars and not passengers in the boat." Stand up, speak out, and do something.

It is now up to you. Even though the former leadership had kept them under wraps, the recent events have brought the views of Jack McManus relative to the Jewish religion and Masonry out in to the open. If the Society is going to move forward without this "anti" baggage, Jack simply must be removed from all JBS leadership positions. Doing so will once again demonstrate to the world that The John Birch Society is focused on principles and is free from any justified accusations of bigotry.

Not only the Society, our entire nation is in deep trouble. There is a very real enemy, a ruthless Conspiracy that wishes to enslave all mankind that needs to be dealt with. Plus, the extremely important campaign to stop the FTAA is being neglected, and the equally important activity to stop the North American Community has gone nowhere since October when Tom Gow and I were forced to leave. The Insiders are moving forward and they must be thrilled with what is happening — and what is not happening — in The John Birch Society.

It's time to check this deplorable situation and go to work! Please feel free to contact me if you would like to discuss the matter further.

Sincerely,
G. Vance Smith

To obtain the following support documentation please email your request to [Kathy Braun](#).

Smith letter to McManus, 7/03/02
(2) Conference flyers, 2005
Benoit and Toft letter, 8/03/00
Eisenberg letter, 7/19/00
Eisenberg letter, 7/27/00
Eisenberg letter, 8/18/00

Mr. McManus's anti-semitic sentiments were well-known within the John Birch Society. William Norman Grigg, the former senior editor of the JBS magazine, *The New American*, posted the following comments on his blog:

Monday, November 12, 2012

[Can They Handle the Truth? \(Update, November 13\)](#)

<http://bsrip.blogspot.com/search?updated-min=2012-01-01T00:00:00-08:00&updated-max=2013-01-01T00:00:00-08:00&max-results=9>

For decades – probably since the early 1970s – Jack McManus peddled anti-Semitic nonsense on company time. This was known to Art Thompson no later than 1999 or 2000. This is a violation of JBS institutional policy laid down, in unambiguous terms, by Mr. Welch in the mid-1960s.

By the late 1990s, [McManus had become a huge liability to the organization](#). At Vance Smith's request, Art Thompson compiled a dossier on McManus's activities and used this as leverage to remove McManus as JBS President in 2000.

Five years later, Thompson -- whose calculus of self-interest had changed – allied with McManus to remove Vance Smith. Seeking to save his job, Smith used the same dossier in an effort to blackmail McManus. I was one of several people who were shown video clips of anti-Semitic speeches by McManus and told that the material could end up in the hands of the media (e.g. Larry King) and Morris Dees, head of the Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC). This caused me to resign from the JBS in disgust – only to be begged back on staff, two days later, by McManus, who wanted me to sit alongside him and Thompson at the first staff meeting following Smith's ouster.

It wasn't until Vance Smith's allies made some elements of Thompson's dossier public that I understood the depth and extent of the Jack McManus scandal – and the cynicism displayed by both Thompson and Smith in dealing with it. This is precisely the kind of thing that thrives in an atmosphere of institutionalized truth-shading. And it is exactly what Robert Welch didn't intend for the organization he created.

All of this has been [sitting in plain view for years](#), and – predictably – it has finally caught the attention of the SPLC, just as Thompson predicted in 2000 and Smith threatened in 2005.

In an earlier blog posting, Mr. Grigg provided additional details re: McManus's religious beliefs:

<http://bsrip.blogspot.com/search?updated-min=2010-01-01T00:00:00-08:00&updated-max=2011-01-01T00:00:00-08:00&max-results=10>

Tuesday, June 15, 2010

The McManus Credo: Dulce et Decorum est Mendacium Decir

He never stops lying, and until the breath permanently departs his lungs he never will.

It wasn't until [Don Fotheringham used his website to publicize the Art Thompson-created dossier on Jack](#) that I learned that he had spent years propagating anti-Semitic nonsense, while pulling down a pretty decent salary to be the figurehead president of the JBS. He did so in prolonged, conscious defiance of the Birch Society's principles. This is why he was -- at Art Thompson's initiative -- removed from his position as JBS president. As the effort to blackmail him in 2005 demonstrates, Jack's actions directly threatened the very existence of the organization.

So, naturally, [Jack was reinstated by Art Thompson as JBS president](#), and a year after I had risked my job on their behalf, Jack and Art stabbed me in the back.

Jack's self-serving definition of "anti-Semitism" as "one who hates" is worthy of remark. I can't address Jack's inner life, or his unspoken motives, so I grant that

it's entirely possible that he doesn't hate Jews. That isn't the issue, nor is Jack's definition of "anti-Semitism" the proper one for our purposes.

Jack is committed, as a matter of covenant, to a minuscule and deeply authoritarian schismatic para-Catholic cult founded by unabashed anti-Semite Leonard Feeney. In 1959, Feeney -- a defrocked priest still referred to as "Father" by his followers -- insisted that **"the Jews, as an organized force, are the implacable, declared enemies of Christianity** — of its tenets, its traditions, its moral code, its very culture. We think it is vital, too, for American Catholics to realize that **the Church has always known this fact about the Jews, and, to the extent of her influence, has counseled and decreed regulations for curbing their malice."** (Emphasis added.)

Feeney and his followers insist that *"the state must declare itself officially Catholic"* -- that is, "Catholic" as defined by Feeney, since everybody else in the Roman Catholic Church is controlled by the Judeo-Masonic conspiracy. Under a Feeneyite regime, the "curbs" inflicted on Jews by the state would include the denial of citizenship. Historically this has led to some pretty ugly consequences, up to and including the Shoah.

Presumably, Jack would see this as a form of rigorous "*Christian*" love -- the same kind of tough but necessary correction that Torquemada and other torturers applied in order to purify Jews and other heretics through pain. The day after I was fired, while I was still bleeding from the dorsal knife wounds he helped to inflict, Jack sent me an e-mail professing to be my friend. So there's reason to believe that his views of affection would be suited to the practice of "Christian" kindness of the sort described above.

Despite the fact that the Feeneyite ideology is utterly incompatible with constitutionalism, let alone the professed principles of the JBS, Jack has been peddling this stuff while taking home a Birch paycheck -- and he's been doing so for decades.

Several weeks ago, I received a letter from a veteran in the liberty movement who describes his first meeting with McManus:

I first met Jack in 1973. I was a high school senior in Boston. My history teacher, [name omitted] ... had given me *"The Law"* by Bastiat and I discovered I was a libertarian. [The teacher] told me about the JBS bookstore in Belmont and I rode my bicycle over to check it out.

That's when I met Jack. I was at the bookstore perhaps once a month or so buying books. When you entered the front door, the book store was to the right, and Jack's office was to the left. If Jack was there he'd always invite me into his office for a chat. Jack would give me his spiel on the Masonic Pope, the Masonic UN, and the Masonic Masons. In the summer of 1974, I told Jack I was planning to go to [an Evangelical Christian college] that fall. Jack was horrified! *"They hate the Catholic Church!"* he said. I was still indifferent to religion. I decided on [that school] because I didn't want to go to a leftist college like Boston University or any of the other schools in Massachusetts.

I'd found out about [the school Jack hated] through their ads on the back cover of *American Opinion* magazine, and I made the mistake of assuming that since the JBS bookstore sold lots of libertarian books, (Murray Rothbard, Ludwig von Mises, Bastiat, etc) that anything and anyone connected to the JBS also had to be good. Duh!

Anyway, I only lasted one semester ... and soon after I returned in December, Jack told me about St. Benedict Center, which at that time was in Harvard, MA. He also loaned me a number of books about catholic history, extolling the virtues of the Inquisition, Queen Isabella, Philip II and the like... It didn't occur to me at the time, but looking back, and reading what you say about Jack on your blog, it is interesting that at **no time did Jack seem interested in what I might do in relation to the JBS, but he was extremely interested in getting me involved with SBC.** [the Feeneyite cult's religious community]. And all of this while sitting in his office in the Birch Society headquarters, collecting his salary from the JBS.

So his religious crusading goes back at least to mid-1974.

Jack is obviously deeply committed to the Feeneyite religion. On the basis of his example it's apparent that honesty is not among its tenets.
Nemo me impune lacessit!

TEXT OF MCMANUS SPEECH

The text of Mr. McManus's "*Know Thine Enemy*" speech on March 24, 2000 before the St. Joseph Forum in South Bend, Indiana which was one his speeches causing controversy within the Birch Society may be seen here:

[McManus Speech, March 24, 2000 = Know Thine Enemy](#)

SELECTED NEWSPAPER ARTICLES RE: JBS (GOOGLE NEWS ARCHIVE)

JBS POSITION ON SEGREGATION (11/14/63)

<http://news.google.com/newspapers?id=8U4cAAAAIBAJ&sjid=YVEEAAAAIBAJ&pg=7301%2C877028>

GOLDWATER RECOMMENDS MEMBERS QUIT JBS (10/15/65)

http://news.google.com/newspapers?id=bCNbAAAAIBAJ&sjid=_U4NAAAAIBAJ&pg=4364%2C4691280

JBS MEMBERS AND ILLEGAL DRUGS (6/4/76)

<http://news.google.com/newspapers?id=jpUbAAAAIBAJ&sjid=glEEAAAAIBAJ&pg=5352%2C3202057>

CHARLES ARMOUR (12/9/66)

http://news.google.com/newspapers?id=SfFVAAAAIBAJ&sjid=_eADAAAAIBAJ&pg=6539%2C2240170

MCMANUS ON JBS MEMBERS=50,000 (1/24/85)

<http://news.google.com/newspapers?id=XSZJAAAAIBAJ&sjid=ZQYNAAAAIBAJ&pg=1332%2C3546412>

REED BENSON on COMMUNISTS "IGNORING" JBS (5/11/63)

<http://news.google.com/newspapers?id=6AghAAAAIIBAJ&sjid=jdUEAAAAIIBAJ&pg=863%2C1928541>

MCMANUS ON JBS MEMBERS 40-80k (5/7/83)

<http://news.google.com/newspapers?id=uBoiAAAAIIBAJ&sjid=iKYFAAAAAIIBAJ&pg=5741%2C6287608>

JBS IN WASHINGTON STATE (2/8/92)

http://news.google.com/newspapers?id=ybMyAAAAIIBAJ&sjid=Q_ADAAAAIIBAJ&pg=7240%2C4979083

JBS in TX AMERICAN LEGION (4/10/61)

<http://news.google.com/newspapers?id=3qVTAAAAIIBAJ&sjid=O4gDAAAAIIBAJ&pg=5155%2C936881>

WELCH INTERVIEW BY NEA (6/30/71) - he estimates percentage of control in various areas of society

<http://news.google.com/newspapers?id=Ik9NAAAAIIBAJ&sjid=qTUDAAAAIIBAJ&pg=680%2C7997182>

WELCH INTERVIEW BY MILWAUKEE NEWSPAPER (6/12/71)

<http://news.google.com/newspapers?id=rvkpAAAAIIBAJ&sjid=MREEAAAAIIBAJ&pg=4910%2C2046916>

FIRST GENE BLAKE ARTICLE IN LAT (reprinted in different paper 4/23/61)

<http://news.google.com/newspapers?id=2o8yAAAAIIBAJ&sjid=8wAGAAAAIIBAJ&pg=4287%2C6267469>

WHAT IS JBS? (JBS AD - Tuscaloosa AL News, 12/13/65)

<http://news.google.com/newspapers?id=LRAdAAAAIIBAJ&sjid=FpsEAAAAIIBAJ&pg=6637%2C2565551>

JBS IN FLORIDA and BEN KLASSEN (Miami News, 5/2/67)

<http://news.google.com/newspapers?id=P1o0AAAAIIBAJ&sjid=OOsFAAAAAIIBAJ&pg=638%2C229483>

UPI ARTICLE ON JBS (10/15/64)

<http://news.google.com/newspapers?id=SEhPAAAAIIBAJ&sjid=W08DAAAAIIBAJ&pg=6686%2C174222>

WELCH IN OREGON (1/19/68)

<http://news.google.com/newspapers?id=n6lVAAAAIIBAJ&sjid=OOEDAAAAIIBAJ&pg=4366%2C3344186>

FLOYD PAXTON OBIT (12/11/75)

<http://news.google.com/newspapers?id=xjYwAAAAIIBAJ&sjid=zvgDAAAAIIBAJ&pg=6411%2C3907091>

NY YANKEES PITCHER - JBS MEMBER MIKE ARMSTRONG (8/4/84)

<http://news.google.com/newspapers?id=SqxQAAAAIIBAJ&sjid=heEDAAAAIIBAJ&pg=2435%2C847779>

JBS SUMMER YOUTH CAMPS (8/12/82)

<http://news.google.com/newspapers?id=ImoaAAAAIIBAJ&sjid=2SkEAAAAIIBAJ&pg=3355%2C812624>

SAMUEL BLUMENFELD ON UNITARIANS (12/13/85)

<http://news.google.com/newspapers?id=ozExAAAAIIBAJ&sjid=ckUDAAAAIIBAJ&pg=2075%2C3237681>

JBS BOOKSTORE--LODI CA (11/26/79)

<http://news.google.com/newspapers?id=L3szAAAAIIBAJ&sjid=tjIHAAAAIIBAJ&pg=6793%2C2666557>

JBS POLICE CONTROVERSY - SANTA ANA CA (11/11/64)

<http://news.google.com/newspapers?id=j4ljAAAAIIBAJ&sjid=CnoNAAAAIIBAJ&pg=7025%2C923520>

KATHY MCDONALD, CANDIDATE FOR CONGRESS (11/4/83)

<http://news.google.com/newspapers?id=V60jAAAAIIBAJ&sjid=bkUDAAAAIIBAJ&pg=3674%2C4663511>

EDWIN WALKER ARRESTED--LEWDNESS CHARGE (7/9/76)

<http://news.google.com/newspapers?id=5yEMAAAAIIBAJ&sjid=V10DAAAAIIBAJ&pg=6390%2C85539>

ROBERT WELCH and CANDY INDUSTRY (6/3/61)

http://news.google.com/newspapers?id=_cgAAAAIIBAJ&sjid=D3QFAAAAAIIBAJ&pg=3227%2C515225

ROBERT WELCH IN LODI CA (4/23/81)

<http://news.google.com/newspapers?id=bGkzAAAAIIBAJ&sjid=rDIHAAAAIIBAJ&pg=4406%2C6164412>

ROBERT WELCH OBIT--UPI and AP (1/8/85)

<http://news.google.com/newspapers?id=ZaxAAAAIIBAJ&sjid=zzIHAAAAIIBAJ&pg=5208%2C603985>

<http://news.google.com/newspapers?id=SpcRAAAAAIIBAJ&sjid=jOkDAAAAIIBAJ&pg=7078%2C2107212>

UPI ARTICLE ON JBS (6/17/62)

<http://news.google.com/newspapers?id=ZaxAAAAIIBAJ&sjid=zzIHAAAAIIBAJ&pg=5208%2C603985>

ROBERT WELCH ON EISENHOWER AS COMMUNIST AGENT (4/1/61)

<http://news.google.com/newspapers?id=mxkQAAAAIIBAJ&sjid=8IoDAAAAIIBAJ&pg=2507%2C24704>

RICHARD NIXON ON WELCH and JBS (3/2/62)

<http://news.google.com/newspapers?id=RjtWAAAAIIBAJ&sjid=QukDAAAAIIBAJ&pg=4531%2C212037>

WELCH IN AUSTIN TX (11/21/61)

<http://news.google.com/newspapers?id=LwRPAAAAIIBAJ&sjid=QUsDAAAAIIBAJ&pg=6826%2C5437704>

WELCH ON CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT (3/9/65)

<http://news.google.com/newspapers?id=LLBYAAAAIIBAJ&sjid=nvcDAAAAIIBAJ&pg=1591%2C2095927>

REVILO OLIVER ON JFK ASSASSINATION (4/3/64)

<http://news.google.com/newspapers?id=oYVRAAAAAIIBAJ&sjid=vxAEAAAAIIBAJ&pg=7300%2C372321>

SLOBODAN DRASKOVICH RESIGNS FROM JBS NATIONAL COUNCIL (8/18/66)

<http://news.google.com/newspapers?id=HW4dAAAAIIBAJ&sjid=G5sEAAAAIIBAJ&pg=7325%2C3019443>

REVILO OLIVER ON WARREN COMMISSION (8/27/64)

<http://news.google.com/newspapers?id=xKwyAAAAIIBAJ&sjid=Q-oFAAAAIBAJ&pg=782%2C3788810>

ROBERT WELCH ON "REAGAN AS LACKEY OF COMMUNISTS" STATEMENT BY MCMANUS (10/29/80)

<http://news.google.com/newspapers?id=IaErAAAAIIBAJ&sjid=ePwFAAAAIBAJ&pg=5714%2C5773158>

AP ARTICLE ON JBS (5/11/83)

<http://news.google.com/newspapers?id=YxUyAAAAIIBAJ&sjid=RqUFAAAAIBAJ&pg=3600%2C468748>

JBS IN UTAH (6/19/89)

<http://news.google.com/newspapers?id=hDspAAAAIIBAJ&sjid=IoQDAAAAIIBAJ&pg=6870%2C1805752>

JBS PLAN TO OPEN UNIVERSITY (7/12/76)

<http://news.google.com/newspapers?id=ECEyAAAAIIBAJ&sjid=suUFAAAAIBAJ&pg=6793%2C1661495>

JBS IN APPLETON WI (5/30/90)

<http://news.google.com/newspapers?id=RJZQAAAAIIBAJ&sjid=uxIEAAAAIIBAJ&pg=5290%2C9634763>

<http://news.google.com/newspapers?id=WacaAAAAIIBAJ&sjid=Li8EAAAAIIBAJ&pg=2241%2C1586279>

JBS IN IDAHO (4/2/85)

<http://news.google.com/newspapers?id=vFhWAAAAIIBAJ&sjid=Ec8DAAAAIIBAJ&pg=3558%2C505688>

AP ARTICLE ON JBS (5/19/76 and 5/27/76)

<http://news.google.com/newspapers?id=px8qAAAAIIBAJ&sjid=KSkEAAAAIIBAJ&pg=6930%2C5147161>

<http://news.google.com/newspapers?id=PQMOAAAAIIBAJ&sjid=gW0DAAAAIIBAJ&pg=5984%2C2673377>

JBS \$9 MILLION DEBT (8/25/86)

<http://news.google.com/newspapers?id=ibgxAAAAIIBAJ&sjid=yeUFAAAAIBAJ&pg=4559%2C7183808>

MELDRIM THOMPSON--JBS MEMBER (10/29/80)

<http://news.google.com/newspapers?id=IaErAAAAIBAJ&sjid=ePwFAAAAIBAJ&pg=5034%2C5773899>

JBS IN PENNSYLVANIA (9/14/88)

<http://news.google.com/newspapers?id=S6kcAAAAIBAJ&sjid=Z2MEAAAAIBAJ&pg=6862%2C7677476>

JBS ON "NEW WORLD ORDER" (11/11/90)

<http://news.google.com/newspapers?id=K3YhAAAAIBAJ&sjid=O4kFAAAAIBAJ&pg=3490%2C2986877>

RONALD REAGAN ON JBS (10/17/66)

<http://news.google.com/newspapers?id=IvYeAAAAIBAJ&sjid=FYwEAAAAIBAJ&pg=5419%2C2103542>

WECLH ON JBS MEMBERS SUPPORT FOR RONALD REAGAN AS CALIF GOV (12/6/66)

<http://news.google.com/newspapers?id=W-YcAAAAIBAJ&sjid=CpcEAAAAIBAJ&pg=5350%2C3750381>

JBS ON REAGAN CAMPAIGN MANAGER WILLIAM J. CASEY (7/7/80)

<http://news.google.com/newspapers?id=Bq4lAAAAIBAJ&sjid=UfMFAAAAIBAJ&pg=3071%2C2188163>

JBS CRITICISM OF PRESIDENT REAGAN (9/13/85)

<http://news.google.com/newspapers?id=tLwzAAAAIBAJ&sjid=au8DAAAAIBAJ&pg=4336%2C7508508>

10-27-61 = Wilmington NC Star-News on JBS (UPI article)

<https://news.google.com/newspapers?nid=1454&dat=19641027&id=n0pkAAAAIBAJ&sjid=XXQNAAAAIBAJ&pg=902,4666408>

01-23-66 = What is the JBS? Advertisement

<https://news.google.com/newspapers?nid=1955&dat=19660123&id=pxwrAAAAIBAJ&sjid=u50FAAAAIBAJ&pg=6282,4131361>

03-11-66 = Newburgh NY Evening News re JBS members who are police

<https://news.google.com/newspapers?nid=1982&dat=19660311&id=IONfAAAAIBAJ&sjid=kW0NAAAAIBAJ&pg=729,1667005>

11-14-67 = William F. Buckley Jr. column re: Impeach Warren campaign and Wall Street Jrl article on JBS

<https://news.google.com/newspapers?nid=861&dat=19671114&id=0wRaAAAAIBAJ&sjid=MksNAAAAIBAJ&pg=6792,1840081>

05-27-70 = Newburgh NY Evening News article on local JBS

<https://news.google.com/newspapers?nid=1982&dat=19700527&id=iYJGAAAAIBAJ&sjid=JDANAAAAIBAJ&pg=724,4637748>

11-04-74 = AP report re JBS members running for Congress

<https://news.google.com/newspapers?nid=1928&dat=19741104&id=yZMgAAAAIBAJ&sjid=tGcFAAAAIBAJ&pg=1274,455289>

09-01-83 = Rome GA News article re: Larry McDonald

<https://news.google.com/newspapers?nid=348&dat=19830901&id=Y04xAAAAIBAJ&sjid=jUUDAAAAIBAJ&pg=6429,9186>

09-27-83 = Larry McDonald and Western Goals

<https://news.google.com/newspapers?nid=2194&dat=19830927&id=AqQyAAAAIBAJ&sjid=DO8FAAAAIBAJ&pg=1414,3569709>

07-10-84 = San Diego Padres Players Who Are JBS Members

<https://news.google.com/newspapers?id=-3NAAAAAIBAJ&sjid=WVcMAAAAIBAJ&pg=3587,3381338>

05-17-86 = JBS member Robert W. Lee

<https://news.google.com/newspapers?nid=336&dat=19860517&id=mTlTAAAAIBAJ&sjid=BYQDAAAAIBAJ&pg=1588,433109>

06-19-89 = Salt Lake City Deseret News article on JBS

<https://news.google.com/newspapers?nid=336&dat=19890619&id=hDspAAAAIBAJ&sjid=IoQDAAAAIBAJ&pg=6870,1805752>

09-16-16 = Appleton WI article on JBS

<https://www.jsonline.com/story/news/politics/elections/2016/09/16/john-birch-society-rise/90502232/>

QUESTIONS and COMMENTS MAY BE SENT TO: ernie1241@aol.com

Due to Google sites space limitations, the *Documentary History of the John Birch Society* is on 5 webpages here:

CHAPTER.....Time Period.....URL

JBS 9-1 / 01/58 thru 08/11/60 = <https://sites.google.com/site/ernie1241/>

JBS 9-2 / 09/60/60 thru 12/15/61 = <https://sites.google.com/site/ernie1241a/>

JBS 9-3 / 01/62 thru 12/31/64 = <https://sites.google.com/site/ernie1241b/>

JBS 9-4 / 01/65 thru 12/31/65 = <https://sites.google.com/site/jbs9004/>

JBS 9-5 / 01/66 thru current = <https://sites.google.com/site/jbs9005a/>

